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Israel

The Likud finished its ranking of members into groups of seven for Knesset elections, with Foreign Minister Levi suffering a "stinging blow; some observers were calling it a knockout," Jerusalem radio reported. In remarks before the end of the voting, but after the defeat of Levi's supporters became apparent, Shamir said he hoped that Levi will accept the results, and expressed his belief "that Levi would continue to serve as foreign minister and deputy prime minister," the radio continued. As for speculation that Levi and his followers would leave the Likud or give their votes to Labor, a postelection speech by Levi "appeared to exclude this possibility, at least for the time being," the radio added. A Japanese bank granted the country a "big multiannual credit line" in a move that YEDI'OT AHARONOT termed a "breakthrough." "It has been learned that Israel decided to try to raise the funds it needs from other countries in view of the U.S. intransigence on the guarantees," the paper continued. A group called "Crush the Forehead of Moab" claimed responsibility for the collapse of an East Jerusalem cafe in which over twenty people were killed, HA'ARETZ reported. Police sources cited by the paper saw "no evidence of terrorist activity at the site," and blamed the disaster on the water-induced weakening of a supporting wall.

Arab-Israeli Talks

"Something important emerged" in yesterday's talks: "that a peace treaty should crown the search for peace," according to the Lebanese chief delegate, who was cited by Voice of Lebanon. He added, however, that the talks with his Israeli counterpart were "frank, but difficult in the true sense of the word," Beirut radio added. The other Arab delegations saw no progress being made, Amman television reported. "Some progress" took place in talks with Jordan, Jerusalem radio disclosed, but "no movement whatsoever was reported in the talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese."

Iraq

INA transmitted Saddam's speech at a ceremony for military medal winners. The envoy to the United Nations told INA that a delegation headed by Tariq 'Aziz would arrive in New York in mid-March, as U.S. visa procedures might preclude an earlier arrival. The delegation "will be willing to explain all military, nuclear, economic, and oil questions," the envoy continued.

Saudi Arabia

SPA reported the news conference held by Iraqi oppositionist al-Hakim, who discussed his meeting with King Fahd. A final statement on the visit was broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People.

Lebanon

The prime minister accused the United States of imposing a "siege" on the country, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain. Noting that promised aid had not materialized, and implying that Washington has a role in rumors aimed at the banking system, 'Umar Karami also asked whether U.S. policy "could be connected to the peace process in order to tame Lebanon's stand" in the Arab-Israeli talks, the radio continued.

Libya

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's speech opening a General People's Congress session marking the 15th anniversary of his coming to power was broadcast live by Tripoli television. Al-Qadhdhafi discussed Lockerbie at length, and said that if the West tries to seize Libyan oil, "they will not find a single drop of gasoline, and they will not be able to put it out, like in Kuwait."

India

The prime minister said the country will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but reiterated that nuclear weapons will not be produced, Delhi radio reported. Narasimha Rao also denied that the economic reforms currently being implemented were at the behest of the World Bank, the radio added.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Lebanese Head: 'Something Important Emerged'

NC0203215492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Report from Washington correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik—recorded]

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, said that something important emerged from today's session: that a peace treaty should crown the search for peace. I would like to note this as an important issue which must be taken into consideration, Shammas said.

After today's session, which was attended by Uri Lubrani, Shammas said that a redeployment of Israeli forces is as far as the Israelis will go in the negotiations. They do not see the implementation of Resolution 425 as a starting point, he said. He affirmed that there is no room for a serious discussion of security concerns outside the framework of Resolution 425 and the required timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal.

[Begin Shammas recording] The Israelis used the term nonstarter [preceding word in English] to describe the Lebanese stand. We told them to read carefully the files, minutes, and accurate recordings in their possession, and we are confident that our stand is sound, clear, and (?useful). It is the most effective and [word indistinct] way to bring about a comprehensive and just peace. [end recording]

Shammas asserted that these issues will continue to be examined despite their difficulty. Asked whether the United States submitted proposals to bring the views closer, Shammas said that it is up to the parties concerned to reach an agreement. He affirmed that the Americans are closely following up what takes place in the closed sessions and that they are in continuous contact with us. The United States, he added, is committed to the peace process, and we trust them.

Additional Remarks

NC0303081292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Government leaders have been following the Washington negotiations, which have achieved no results. The Lebanese and Arab delegations described the negotiations as disappointing and said that the gap between the parties remains wide, which necessitates Washington's intervention.

After the session, Lebanese delegation head Ambassador Suhayl Shammas told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY: The talks were frank, but difficult in the true sense of the word. But because our political decision is clear and we know what we want and are confident of the soundness of our demand, the Israeli side began discussing what we had proposed to them. What drew our attention is that the Israeli side has focused its comments on our proposal for a timetable and the need to discuss this timetable together. We told the Israeli side that the commitment we proposed is twofold: The first is a clear and frank commitment to accept the implementation of Resolution 425, and the second is a commitment to approve the discussion of the details of the withdrawal timetable. Under the second commitment—namely, the discussion of the details of the timetable for the Israeli withrawal—the Israeli side can present to us in a clear manner its security fears and concerns. We will then study these fears and concerns and take into consideration whatever we believe is genuine. We will discuss such fears and concerns and the way to address them within the framework of the desired timetable.

Ambassador Shammas emphasized last Sunday that Lebanon will address Israel's security fears seriously if it officially commits itself to withdrawing from the south.

Shammas telephoned Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz last night and briefed him on the session of talks. He told Buwayz that no progress has been achieved and that the question of whether the fifth round of negotiations will or will not be held before the Israeli elections in June is shrouded in ambiguity. [passage omitted]

Arab Delegates Report No Progress

JN0204205792 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Salim 'Ali Dhiyab report from Washington including comments by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation; and Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation; in Washington on 2 March—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The second week of the fourth round of Arab-Israeli talks got under way in Washington today, with chief Arab delegates asserting that negotiations have reached a crisis point, and that Israel is trying to gain time with the unacceptable proposals it has presented during the past four days of sessions.

['Abd-al-Shafi] "We have reached a crisis point, with each side rejecting the proposals of the other side."

[Al-Majali] "We must also realize that there are four tracks. Some tracks are more crisis-ridden than others. There are different shades, but I cannot report that progress has been made."

[Al-'Allaf] "The point is that Israel does not recognize that the consensus reached by international legitimacy is that it must vacate the territories it occupied by aggression. It is always out to give a distorted interpretation of Resolution 242, which has won the universal support of the United Nations and the cosponsors of the conference, and when they put forward the principle of Arab

territory in exchange for peace, only Israel turns its face from it, seeking to stall and gain time."

In statements last night following a coordination meeting convened at the chief Syrian delegate's residence, the chief Arab negotiators said that relocating the talks from Washington will not be possible before tangible progress, acceptable to the Arab side, is achieved.

[Al-Majali] "In every meeting, the cosponsor has promised that when the time comes for substance, it will intervene in earnest, and I believe it will, maybe before the end of this...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] "Will you ask Arab parties [word indistinct]?

[Al-Majali] "Of course, if between now and the end of this round, we will demand this. We in Jordan will demand this with absolute clarity."

Observers here are unanimous on the fact that the Arab-Israeli talks are continuing although they are only marking time, in itself is a success as long as Israel wants to undermine the peace process through the Arab parties or their withdrawal from the talks. [sentence as heard]

[Al-'Allaf] "We stick to Washington and we do not think we must move from place to place, since the bottom line is about making progress, not the place itself."

Israelis See No Breakthrough in Self-Rule Talks

TA0303063092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The latest round of peace talks in Washington ended without any breakthrough. Our Washington correspondent says the Israeli side in the talks with the Palestinians presented plans for self-rule in the territories, focusing on commerce, the judicial system, and health aspects. The Palestinians charged again that Israel was violating civil rights in the territories.

The head of the Israeli team, Elyaqim Rubinstein, told the Palestinians if they wanted to change the existing situation, they would have to hold a serious discussion on the conditions Israel was proposing.

Later, the head of the Palestinian delegation described the meeting as a dialogue of the deaf. Some progress was reported in the meeting between the Israeli and Jordanian teams. The sides exchanged new draft agendas in an effort to create an agreed basis for future negotiations. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 3 March notes that "nevertheless, the Jordanians called off their initiative to set up joint working teams with the Israeli delegation."] No movement whatsoever was reported in the talks with the Syrians and the Lebanese.

Later today all the delegations will be present when the head of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee holds a reception for them.

No Progress in Other Talks

TA0203202192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Another round of talks between the Israeli delegation and those of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon ended without any progress being made. Our Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the meeting with the Jordanians was devoted to a discussion of the agenda, which has still not been finalized. The meeting with the Syrians dealt with the reasons for the Six-Day War, with each side blaming the other for the aggression. In the meeting with the Lebanese, Israel's proposal to discuss a peace settlement was raised again while the Lebanese demanded that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from south Lebanon be discussed.

The meeting with the Palestinians will be tonight after the head of the Israeli team confers with Edward Djerejian on the location for the next round of talks. Israel is demanding that they be moved to the Middle East. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director of the Prime Minister's Office, said that he is not prepared to accept the Arab request to hold the talks in Washington in April.

Israeli Paper Interviews PLO's Nabil Sha'th

TA0203125492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 pp 9, 10

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, by Dan Avidan at the Grand Hotel in Washington "last weekend"]

[Text] [Avidan] How do you sum up the first week of the current round of talks on the Israeli-Palestinian track?

[Sha'th] The first major issue was settlement. From the Palestinian point of view, it was important that this issue be clearly discussed, it being a precondition for the success of any negotiations and the successful establishment of some kind of Palestinian self-government during the transitional period. The Americans keep telling us: If you believe the settlement issue is so important, bring it up for discussion at the negotiating table! And indeed, we did bring it up. Obviously, the Israeli delegation refused to discuss it, although we addressed several aspects of the issue.

[Avidan] Such as?

[Sha'th] Many members of the Israeli delegation—Elyaqim Rubinstein in particular—speak about the settlement issue as if the issue is whether or not Jews may live in the occupied territories. This, however, is not the case.

Ever since 1967, a military government decree has prevented the registration of land ownership by Palestinians. Decrees issued later created a secret process of land registration in the occupied territories only for the

Israelis. They marked complete areas as being out of bounds for the Palestinians. Based on this, the Israelis began expropriating lands.

It is true that today the settlements cover only 10 percent of the territories, but an additional 72 percent is marked out of bounds to Palestinians. In addition, land owned by Palestinians cannot be sold because there is no registration of Palestinian land ownership. When a Palestinian dies or leaves his land, it cannot be bequeathed nor can it be registered under the name of another Palestinian. The land becomes the "property of the absentee," and Israelis may purchase it. This means that Israel is not speaking about coexistence but about a sinister plan to seize all the lands and drive the residents out.

[Avidan] Do you want it stopped as a precondition for the continued discussion of the self-government issue?

[Sha'th] We say that land expropriation must stop, first and foremost. We are not speaking about breaking up settlements, but about stopping terror against our people. Once this stops, we may proceed with confidence-building measures and a normal dialogue. Stopping settlement and the expropriation of land is a precondition for the success of the talks, but not to our participation in the framework of negotiations. We can stay in the negotiations process forever, but it will never succeed if settlement activity continues.

The second issue at the focus of discussions was the Israeli offer we were handed regarding the interim arrangements, called "Ideas for Coexistence in the Territories." This is a ridiculous offer, but it helped us bring up the settlement issue.

At the heart of the Israeli offer stand the conceptual and the territorial issues. The conceptual issue states that there will be no Palestinian self-government; rather, there will be certain authorities in specific and unimportant fields which will be handed over to the Palestinians. This completely nullifies the idea of the transfer of power and the creation of an interim self-government arrangement. There is no Palestinian self-government in the Israeli offer! With this concept, the Israelis are pulling the rug out from under the whole process of interim arrangements, which is an arrangement meant to precede the permanent status.

Also, there is the issue of the extraterritorial status of the settlers. The arrangement Israel offered will place the settlements and all Israeli activity in the territories outside the boundaries of the law and will allow them to expand their territory further during the transitional period. In fact, the Israelis are saying that we are launching an arrangement that does not give the Palestinians any self-government while defining an ever-expanding pocket of Israeli settlements over which the Palestinians will have no authority. According to the Israeli plan, this is the precondition for the transitional period. In other words, the Israelis are demanding that the Palestinians agree to the expansion of settlement activity during the transitional period and the extraterritorial status of the settlements. This is apartheid, because you will be creating two separate communities which occupy the same territory, each subject to a different law and government. This is why I believe the Israeli offer underlined even further the need to stop settlement.

[Avidan] What is the way out of this deadlock? Is there a chance that the Palestinians will accept the Israeli plan?

[Sha'th] The Israeli offer is not a plan. The main question is not whether we will accept authority over postal services, religious affairs, or garbage collection. The issue is made up of two questions: self-government, and its source of authority. The source of authority should be the will of the people in a democratic process and the geographically defined area over which this self-government will have jurisdiction.

These two elements must be dealt with before we begin discussing who will provide postal services during the transitional period, not to mention the issues of Jerusalem, security, and withdrawal. The Israeli plan rules out the idea of self-government as an interim arrangement; it rejects the principle of withdrawal; it gives the settlements an extraterritorial status; and it does not create a link between the interim and the permanent arrangements. So what is there to agree to? The distribution of public services that can be studied in any public service school, such as postal services?

This is why I say that the Israeli plan is no plan at all. It is an attempt by Shamir to convince the U.S. Administration and part of the Israeli public that the Israeli Government is continuing the peace process. This is a trick, a sham, an insult to every intelligent Israeli. It is not even a starting point. The Israeli plan violates the Camp David accords, it contradicts the notion of elections in the territories that was included in the plan Shamir himself submitted two years ago. This is an attempt to cheat those Israelis who feel that there is an opportunity for Israeli-Palestinian coexistence based on the mutual recognition of both peoples' rights. The Israeli plan obliterates this opportunity. Its only aim is to mislead the Israeli voter to secure a Likud victory in the elections.

[Avidan] What will you do? Will you try to "improve" the Israeli plan during the negotiations, or will you quit them?

[Sha'th] We are not thinking about quitting at the moment. We will reevaluate the situation, but the decision on what to do next will be made by the PLO leadership, which is the authorized body to pass such decisions.

I am afraid Shamir is playing an election game. He is not serious about peace. He only wants to convince the Israeli public—the majority of which wants peace, which is apparent from public opinion polls published in Israel. The same goes for the Palestinian public: It is tired of

wars and wants peace. Shamir is playing with both peoples' feelings. He tells them that he is in a process, he raises ideas and suggestions, but he is misleading them because his offers will take us nowhere.

[Avidan] Would you say that the Palestinians want Labor under Yitzhaq Rabin to win the elections because this may facilitate advancement toward peace?

[Sha'th] It is really not the Palestinian's place to decide such matters. We have learned not to intervene in other nations' decisions, including our rivals. All we can say is what policy we would like an Israeli government to adopt: We would like to see a government seriously enter peace negotiations on the basis of the formula of territories for peace, with a true readiness to implement it and to establish a true Palestinian self-government during the transitional period which would prepare us for the permanent arrangements that would be based on peace. This is what we would like to see. Any Israeli government willing to hold serious negotiations with the Palestinians on the basis of the formula of territories for peace will find a Palestinian partner eager to reach an arrangement.

[Avidan] Are the Palestinians really ready to coexist with Israel?

[Sha'th] Absolutely. The Palestinians have clearly shown their desire to coexist side by side with Israel and to attain a true peace based on the guidelines of the peace process.

[Avidan] But you regard an independent Palestinian state as a "red line," to which Israel does not agree.

[Sha'th] Correct; we insist that a Palestinian state be established, but this is not what we are currently negotiating. We were never too enthusiastic about the rules of the game of the peace process, and we believe they were so designed to prolong the negotiations; we accepted them nevertheless. So let us proceed according to these rules. Let us make progress toward the implementation of what was stated in the letters of invitation to the negotiations. That is, let there be a full transfer of power to the Palestinians regarding political, economic, and social affairs. Such full transfer of power should prepare the territories for negotiations on the permanent arrangements, which are to begin in two years.

[Avidan] Should Israel accept the Palestinian model of self-government, will you be willing to keep the settlements under the authority of that self-government?

[Sha'th] Of course, this is what we are offering.

[Avidan] What will be the status of settlements in the permanent arrangement?

[Sha'th] We will hold negotiations on that. Let us not jump to the next stage yet.

[Avidan] The Israelis, however, claim that your idea of self-government calls in fact for the establishment of a Palestinian state already during the transitional period, and they will not accept it.

[Sha'th] This is just it. Elyaqim Rubinstein is negotiating ideology; we are negotiating substance. He uses words which bring to his mind ideological concepts such as a Palestinian state; he is in fact examining our intentions. Certainly, we want a Palestinian state, but we are not negotiating that now. We want Rubinstein to hold negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian self-government for the transitional period.

[Avidan] But do you not want international supervision of the territories during the transitional period?

[Sha'th] We want this, but it is open for negotiations. We want it because we have no confidence in the Israeli Government.

[Avidan] Are you coordinating stands with the other Arab delegations? For example, do the Syrians agree that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations make progress while the negotiations on the Golan Heights are stuck?

[Sha'th] We hold daily meetings with the heads of the Arab delegations. The Syrians agree that progress be made in the negotiations on the transitional arrangements in the territories while the negotiations on the Golan are stagnant. This is so because they and the Jordanians know that we are one stage behind them to begin with. They are already discussing the essence of the permanent arrangements between them and Israel, while we are still discussing transitional arrangements.

[Avidan] Even if we overcome the obstacles in the negotiations on the transitional arrangements, there will be difficulties in the talks on the permanent arrangements because you are demanding a Palestinian state. Will you accept less that an independent state? Will you agree that this Palestinian entity be demilitarized?

[Sha'th] Why should we discuss this now? We have no plans of being an aggressor. We will accept any plan for the demilitarization of the West Bank and Gaza which would guarantee security for both peoples, the Israeli and the Palestinian.

[Avidan] Will you accept less than a state?

[Sha'th] It is not for the Israelis to determine what entity we will establish for ourselves. Nevertheless, we are willing to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. This, however, we will discuss with the Jordanians, not the Israelis.

[Avidan] Will you be willing to sign a peace treaty with Israel, if it withdraws from the territories?

[Sha'th] Of course! There is no problem with this, including normalization of relations with Israel.

[Avidan] What about your demand that refugees be allowed to return to their homes?

[Sha'th] The right of return is a very sensitive issue with the Israelis. Nevertheless, it is the natural right of anyone who was deported from his home to return to it. The question is how to go about implementing this, and this has to be negotiated. We are open for pragmatic solutions on this matter as well.

The problem is that we have not yet reached the first step of Israel's recognition of the Palestinians. Before these questions are asked, the Israelis must ask themselves: Will they be ready to withdraw from the territories and let the Palestinians decide what to do? When the Israelis are ready to withdraw, we may negotiate all the other issues. All the problems—including the right of refugees to return to their homes—can be provided with pragmatic solutions, if we start with the simple principle that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination and that the occupation must be terminated. Just like you, we have a right to security; just like you, we have a right to good-neighbor relations and normalization; we have to conduct the negotiations in the framework of these principles.

Inter-Arab Affairs

CIA Said Involving Region in Bid to Oust Saddam

NC0303062792 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 18

[From the "Stands" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] U.S. intelligence has asked Arab countries to help it topple Saddam Husayn. Egypt has refused to take part in the operation because it does not support non-Arabs against Arabs, regardless of the circumstances. Egypt has rejected repeated U.S. requests to help it topple Libya's al-Qadhdhafi.

Egypt knows that U.S. intelligence participated in the coup attempts in Syria and Iran during the 1950's. In fact, Egypt opposed the toppling of Iraq's 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim in the 1960's.

It appears that U.S. intelligence has changed its plans drastically. Seven years have passed since "Operation Lily" ['Amaliyat al-Zanbaqah] which was hatched by the United States to topple al-Qadhdhafi. The operation failed and al-Qadhdhafi is still in power despite continued U.S. condemnation that al-Qadhdhafi leads international terrorism and practices state terrorism.

Egypt wants to play a positive role in defending the fraternal Arab countries against foreign intervention and is trying to mediate between Libya, the United States, France, and Britain to avert a U.S. military strike. In addition, Egypt tried to prolong the cease-fire before the final blow against Saddam Husayn in the Gulf war and it refused to send its troops inside Iraq.

Former CIA Director William Casey coordinated the air bridges to Afghanistan in 1983 from Cairo.

Although the United States helped the Egyptian Revolution Command Council banish [Abraz] King Faruq, U.S. intelligence failed to wipe out 'Abd-al-Nasir.

CIA director Robert Gates visited Cairo and met with President Mubarak. He then went to Riyadh to present his new Middle East plan. Gates sought operational assistance [Musa'adah 'Amaliyah] from Egypt and financial assistance from others. The intelligence director heard Egypt's views rejecting violence and direct Israeli intervention in Iraq; that is, U.S. aircraft taking off from Israeli bases or U.S. missiles being launched from Israel.

Egypt believes that this would be the most serious thing that could happen in the Middle East. If it happens, all leaders in the area would lose control, something President Mubarak noted during the Gulf war.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia declined to take part in any future military operations in Iraq or Libya.

GCC Holds Session, Issues Communique

LD0203200992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1732 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Riyadh, 2 March, SPA— Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries concluded the 42d session of their ministerial meeting this evening in the headquarters of the GCC General Secretariat. The meeting was chaired by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and chairman of the current session, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim.

At the beginning of the final session, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah read out the following press statement:

The Ministerial Council held its 42d session on in Riyadh on Sunday and Monday 1-2 March 1992, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, and with the attendance of their highnesses and excellencies Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates; Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister of Bahrain; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, political affairs under secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman; and Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, foreign minister of Qatar.

The Council reviewed new developments in the regional and international arenas, and the progress in implementing the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Iraqi regime's aggression against the State of Kuwait. The Council notes with profound attention and concern that despite the fact that one year has elapsed since the liberation of the State of Kuwait, the Iraqi regime is still procrastinating and placing obstacles in the path of the

implementation of the Security Council resolutions and is continuing its attempts to evade its international undertakings. The Ministerial Council condemns the Iraqi regime for practicing the policy of procrastination and maneuvering and for not totally and immediately abiding by the Security Council resolutions concerning its aggression.

While recalling the resolutions of the Kuwait summit, the Ministerial Council reaffirms anew its firm stance regarding the necessity of Iraq's adherence to the implementation of all clauses of Resolution 687 which set the cease-fire conditions, and all the relevant resolutions, especially those relating to the release of all Kuwaiti nationals and nationals from other countries who are prisoners or detainees; demarcation of the border between the State of Kuwait and Iraq on the basis of the 1932 and 1936 agreements between the two countries in line with Security Council Resolution 687; payment of compensation to the victims of the tyrannical aggression; and response to the international inspection teams charged with the removal of all the weapons of mass destruction. The Ministerial Council calls on the Security Council to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to insure more rapid implementation of these clauses.

The Council stresses its total concern for Iraq's territorial integrity and regional security, and places on the Iraqi regime total responsibility for all kinds of persecution and terror which are being experienced by the Iraqi people. It also stresses the total responsibility of the Iraqi regime in this respect, on account of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 and 712 which deal with the removal of the human sufferings of the fraternal Iraqi people and provision of their food and medicine needs.

The Ministerial Council renews its commitment to backing the peace efforts aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and bringing about a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian question. The Council expresses its satisfaction with the convening of the multilateral talks of the Middle East peace conference in Moscow, which helped to show that there is a definite international conviction that the peace process depends on the principle of land for peace and the implementation of resolutions 242 and 338 and of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people; the Council expresses satisfaction with the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington in February by the parties concerned.

The Council notes with profound attention and concern the continuation of the [words indistinct] policies by the Israeli side and its attempts to abort the peace efforts at a time when the Arab sides are reaffirming their true wishes for serious negotiations aimed at establishing the foundation of a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. The Council condemns the illegal Israeli settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories and the policy of imposing by force the status quo, and the acts of oppression against the Palestinian people, and the flagrant and repeated attacks on civilians in Lebanon and the violation of Lebanese sovereignty, a matter that contravenes the peace efforts being made.

In this connection the Council reaffirms that Israel's refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, its continued occupation of Arab territories, and its illegal settlement expansion threaten the entire peace process.

The Council praises the U.S. commitment to supporting the peace negotiations and its sponsoring of the peace process and its positive attitude which rejects Israel's policy, which is aimed at perpetuating and expanding settlement-building in the occupied Arab territories and runs totally counter to the peace efforts being made.

The Council expresses its profound concern and regret at the continuation of the deterioration of the security situation, living conditions, and division among brothers in Somalia, and appeals to all nationalist forces to stop the bloodshed, reject differences, and place the national interest above all other considerations and cooperate with the reconciliation efforts being made by the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the OAU. The Council reaffirms that the GCC member-states stand by Somalia in its tribulation and expresses the hope that security and stability will return to that fraternal country as this is important for peace and stability in all parts of the Horn of Africa.

The Council welcomes the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic republics in Central Asia, which recently gained independence, and the GCC member-states, and reaffirms its desire to bolster the historic, cultural, and fraternal relations between the peoples of these republics and the peoples of the GCC.

Done in the City of Riyadh; 2 March 1992.

GCC's Bisharah on Gulf Security Arrangements

NC0103083292 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 28 Feb 92 pp 82-83

[Interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, by Sana' al-Sa'id; date and place not given]

[Text] [al-Sa'id] Why does it seem so difficult to achieve an agreement on future security arrangements in the area, since the lack of defense cooperation in the Gulf leaves a vacuum, especially since, in the final analysis, the West now appears to be the only guarantor of Gulf security?

[Bisharah] The subject of security arrangements in the Gulf is extremely sensitive and currently requires securing capabilities that cannot be easily attained, especially in terms of manpower. Manpower in the Gulf is limited and any plans to build a joint Gulf force with a

unified framework, a common concept, and specific tasks requires time. Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id presented a report to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit in Kuwait last December. It was agreed that, in view of the importance of the report, further study was required and a final report on the possibility of implementing a plan would be presented to the next summit. In other words, the member-states will study the report this year, the defense ministers, and various military committees will then meet to discuss it, and then the report will be referred to the summit, which should convene in Abu Dhabi at the end of this year, for a decision. What I would like to point out here is that the whole world is interlinked like a single pyramid.

[al-Sa'id] What angers some people is that the GCC security strategy appears to rest on an alliance with Western forces.

[Bisharah] We must not be angry because the West has interests in the Gulf; on the contrary, we want to consolidate these interests, because otherwise the area will have no strategic value. We want international developments to be accompanied by a development of the Arab mentality to understand that Arab security is linked to international security, in the sense that disturbances in the world affect Arab states, disturbances in Europe affect Arab states, and vice versa. Amid the current developments and with the new world order, one cannot build palaces of stability on remote islands. Regional security is inextricably linked with international security.

[al-Sa'id] What about the Arab dimension of the security arrangements, especially since the focus on the West has made the Gulf states appear to be outsiders rather than part of the Arab world.

[Bisharah) As I have just said, Gulf security is an extremely sensitive issue since the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. For this reason, security arrangements must be dealt with from Gulf, Arab, regional, and international perspectives. In other words, there are four aspects to the issue: a local Gulf aspect; a regional aspect through an understanding with Iran, which is a basic security matter; an Arab aspect through the Damascus Declaration that involves Egypt and Syria; and an international aspect because security is interlinked.

[al-Sa'id] When the call by Sultan Qabus to form a joint Gulf force was deemed unfeasible it appeared to some people as tacit recognition of the failure of the Peninsula Shield to act as a deterrent, especially when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

[Bisharah] The Peninsula Shield is in fact a political force that basically reflects the viewpoint that aggression against any Gulf country constitutes aggression against all GCC countries; in other words, the Peninsula Shield is a symbolic force, not a deterrent one. It does not have the weapons for deterrence and has no more than 8,000 members. It cannot repel any aggression, from Iraq or any other force wishing to attack the Gulf. Hence, one of the ways of completing Gulf defenses is to review the Peninsula Shield, quadruple its force, and reassess its responsibilities and commitments so that it can become the nucleus of a real deterrent force. This is one proposal. We have Sultan Qabus' proposal and the Peninsula Shield proposal for the time being. This is until forces and conditions are right for implementing the idea of the joint Gulf force as proposed in Sultan Qabus' report. We have never thought of the Peninsula Shield as a deterrent or even a defensive force. It is a symbolic mobile force representing the notion that Gulf security is collective.

[al-Sa'id] Relying on Western protection deprives the GCC of its substance, which, from the moment it was established, was based on the premise that it is primarily a defensive grouping, not an economic one.

[Bisharah] There are international, Western, and U.S. interests in the region. We are not much harmed or worried by the fact that Western countries have interests in our region. We must admit that our region is vital for the world's economy, finance, and monetary structure. Tampering with these interests is dangerous. Whoever does so is tampering with destiny and playing with fire. This is what escaped the notice of the ignorant Iraqi regime.

We see no shame in cooperating with the West at this stage to achieve security and stability until our preparations for Gulf security arrangements are completed. It is no wonder. All of Europe and Japan rely on the U.S. role. International security is interlinked and consequently, it does not disgrace us and we should not be annoyed by these facts.

[al-Sa'id] Each country in the Gulf has its own problems. The Gulf countries have different views of Iran. Will the GCC accept, as a whole, a role for Iran despite the doubts raised about it and its role in the region?

[Bisharah] We must admit that Iran is our neighbor and partner in Gulf waters. We must address the need for Iran's participation in Gulf security, freedom of navigation in international maritime lanes, and cooperation in fisheries, the environment, and pollution. Otherwise, Iran's rights in these waters would be negated. Iran has rights because it lies on the eastern coast of Gulf waters. There must be cooperation with Iran.

The second thing we must clarify is GCC countries' stability and security. This concerns GCC countries alone and is an internal affair. This means that while we are Iran's partners in Gulf waters, the stability of GCC countries is confined to these countries, which have the right to allow any party they choose to participate in their security arrangements. I do not believe that Iran or any other party can object. From the practical and logical viewpoint, we cannot ensure stability in Gulf waters without Iran's participation and cooperation. I hope that the issue is clear so there will not be any confusion.

[al-Sa'id] Referring to the Damascus Declaration, it seemed to observers as though the recent GCC summit

concentrated on economics rather than security, which is hard to implement in view of many sensitivities. Is this true?

[Bisharah] This is a complex subject. I can say, however, that the Gulf development program was decided at the Doha summit when Kuwait was occupied. In other words, it preceded the recent Kuwait summit and the Damascus Declaration. The Gulf countries concentrated on economics in their recent summit because they were very angry that the states that benefited from the Gulf countries' kindheartedness, tolerance, and generosity had turned against them. In other words, there was a certain defect in the substance and value of the economic assistance. Therefore, the Gulf countries decided to reconsider and to cooperate with the states that supported Arab legitimacy, meaning Egypt and Syria, through a program aiming to develop Gulf countries' economies.

The Damascus Declaration contains an economic aspect as well as security and political aspects. The security aspect provides for cooperation within the framework of the joint defense pact and consultations and cooperation with Egypt and Syria to assist the Gulf countries, should they wish, in achieving security and stability. This means that there are certain channels to organize security cooperation between the Gulf countries and Egypt and Syria.

The political aspect is very important. It calls for constant consultations on regional, Arab, and bilateral issues, such as issues concerning the Gulf countries and Egypt and Syria. In addition, there is the Middle East issue, around which constant and intensive consultations are being held between the Gulf countries and Egypt and Syria to implement that aspect of the Declaration.

Hence, the economic program is a decision on assistance from the Gulf countries with the stipulation that it should be given to those who deserve it via modern channels. This is bound to reflect positively on Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf countries. It will necessarily mean developing their economy and private sector.

[al-Sa'id] Does this mean that you do not agree with those who charge that the Damascus Declaration is hollow and lacks the necessary mechanism for implementation, that it was signed in haste in view of the prevailing conditions at the time, and that the Gulf region cannot afford to implement its provisions, particularly those pertaining to security?

[Bisharah] No, because the Damascus Declaration is not a hollow shell lacking substance. It is a collection of principles and it is very important to develop the necessary basis and mechanism to put these principles into effect. Therefore, we will meet in Doha in April with the foreign ministers of the Declaration signatories to work out the implementation mechanism and formulate the protocol we talked about at the Arab League meeting, which will complement the League's charter. We should not give in to the charges you have mentioned because the Declaration is not an empty balloon, but a set of principles organizing relations among our countries.

[al-Sa'id] You said that relations with Iran are based on neighborliness and rapprochement and will not lead to military cooperation. Are you upset with Iran's rapprochement with Sudan?

[Bisharah] We have had a tough experience; once bitten, twice shy. We are following up the contacts with Iran and looking for the best way to develop relations. We are also frank with each other in saying that statements and actions that are incompatible with our calls for cooperation are unacceptable. Trust is the most important element in cooperation among states, that is, our relations must be based on trust and confidence. As for Sudan, as far as we are concerned the Sudanese regime did not take a positive stand and we are certainly watching out for its actions and activities in its attempt to expand its realm. We do not doubt anyone's intentions, but we do not trust anyone either. We have to be 100 percent sure; this is what experience has taught us.

[al-Sa'id] Iran hopes that the Gulf states will not turn into a base against it, and this is why it is seeking guarantees from its Gulf neighbors that they will not place their resources at the disposal of a power hostile to Iran.

[Bisharah] We are giving them what they want in terms of assurances and guarantees, and they have every right to want them. If they have fears, we are trying to dispel them and tell them that it is in the Gulf and Iran's interest for Gulf security arrangements to be clear and unconcealed, particularly since the Iraqi regime is still there and remains a threat, although it is an anachronism. As long as this regime exists we must stress our regional security. So, Iran has a right to ask and it is our duty to give reassuring answers.

[al-Sa'id] Don't you fear Iran and the possibility that it could pose a threat to Gulf states in the future, particularly since it has recently begun a rearmament plan to rebuild its forces to become a regional power that cannot be ignored?

[Bisharah] I believe that through dialogue and intensive contacts we could contain the fears, whatever they may be.

[al-Sa'id] On the other hand, do you believe that Iraq remains a threat even though it is hamstrung by international restrictions?

[Bisharah] No. We believe that this regime is obsolete and that its existence is an aberration. It is a regime of shame, and regimes of shame must disappear.

[al-Sa'id] Does this mean we are far from truly clearing the Arab atmosphere?

[Bisharah] The Arab atmosphere cannot be cleared as long as certain Arab regimes exist. There are several regimes of shame, which must disappear. We are calling

for a new Arab order based on reality. We are genuine countries with civilized regimes. There is no such thing as free Arab money or open borders. We do not accept this. We are countries in every sense of the word.

[al-Sa'id] Concerning the peace process in the region, some say that GCC participation in the multilateral talks in Moscow last month strengthened Israel's hand in view of Syria and Lebanon's absence from the talks. Israel, some say, hopes to carry out a Marshal plan for the region with Gulf money.

[Bisharah] The Gulf countries are astute, well-informed, and experienced in international contacts. What you say here is not true. Do some people imagine that we have endless wealth? Do they think we have money to burn? There will be no Marshal plan with Gulf financing. The Gulf countries are committed to the peace efforts. We participated in Madrid and the Moscow talks. We understand that multilateral talks will remain ineffective until the bilateral talks achieve a tangible result.

Participation in the multilaterals, however, creates a momentum that is beneficial to the bilateral talks, in the sense that it rallies collective international pressure against Israel. Moreover, our cooperation with the international community represents an indictment of Israel's dithering and intransigence. The Gulf countries are astute and it is naive to assume that they will finance Israel's dreams. This is an unreasonable, or let is say, unfounded concern.

[al-Sa'id] One can argue that the GCC has failed to resolve the outstanding dispute between Qatar and Bahrain. The last GCC summit declined to discuss the issue because it is awaiting a ruling from the International Court of Justice.

[Bisharah] No, this is not true. Consultations are still under way in this regard and King Fahd is continuing to use his good offices. We have agreed that it is best for both countries to seek a ruling from the International Court of Justice. Legal procedures are under way. There is no failure here, only a conviction that all efforts should continue.

Arab League Denies Report on Dispute With GCC

NC0103180092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—A responsible source at the Arab League Secretariat has said that there is no truth whatsoever to reports published in today's edition of the Jordanian newspaper AL- RA'Y that a meeting between the secretaries general of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] failed to contain a dispute between the two organizations. He said that the meeting was held to define a number of principles to confirm the importance of adhering to the Arab League Charter, Arab legitimacy, international legitimacy, and the principles of international law.

The source said that these principles also affirm the importance of adhering to the regulations and charters among the Arab countries. He also affirmed the importance of developing joint goals as a basis for joint Arab action, considering the principles contained in the Damascus Declaration—which stem from the Arab League Charter—a positive step in relations between the Arab countries, and bolstering joint Arab action.

The source added that the meeting highlighted the importance of coordination between the two secretariats in all Arab and international fields.

The meeting also resulted in agreement on annual meetings between the secretariats and secretary generals.

Arab League's 'Abd-al-Majid on Regional Issues

PM0203165292 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Feb 92 pp 30-31

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] The Arab League's failure to attend the Madrid peace conference or the recent multilateral talks in Moscow—even as observer—has raised numerous questions: Is anyone trying to "eclipse" or "marginalize" the Arab League and its role; if so, who; and can this be attributed to the League's limited role recently?

['Abd-al-Majid] I am anxious emphasize conclusively that nobody wants to marginalize the League and its role. The League's participation or nonparticipation is not attributable to the limited nature of its role, as you say. The truth is that it is attributable to the nature of the bilateral negotiations, which are confined to the states concerned.

['Ajjaj] But what about the multilateral negotiations?

['Abd-al-Majid] We of the Arab League are entirely willing to participate in them and to discuss strategic issues concerning economic and social development in the region, including water issues and so on. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Certainly the continuation of the situation in the Gulf and the failure to reach a solution to the disputes there are having a negative affect on the course of events in the the Arab world as a whole. With regard to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, for example, do you not believe that the League is now qualified to end this issue?

['Abd-al-Majid] I would like first to emphasize a basic fact, namely, that the Gulf crisis has left deep wounds in Arab hearts. Its grave effects have affected everyone in the Arab nation. The Gulf crisis, with all its complications, has reflected on the Arab system as represented in the Arab League. Despite all these circumstances, the Arab leaders and foreign ministers with whom I met emphasized the need for the Arab League to play the role

assigned to it to resolve this issue within its Arab framework, in view of the important humanitarian aspect involved. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] There are threats and dangers facing the Arab regional system. In your view, which are the most important, and how can the Arab regional system and the institutional organ represented by the League maintain its coherence and confront them while adhering to its basic aims?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that in view of the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation—which requires the protection of the nation's interests, its future, and the constituents of its pan-Arab security—the Arab states' speedy commitment to the rules of the Arab solidarity charter signed by Arab kings and presidents in 1965 would be the first necessary Arab step in order to strengthen joint Arab action.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that present conditions can help in this respect?

['Abd-al-Majid] I can stress that during my Arab tours I sensed the Arab leaders' sincere desire to clear the Arab atmosphere and to mend the rift that has afflicted the Arab nation as a result of the Gulf crisis, especially as the Arab world is facing a set of interlinked issues and challenges to which we must work unitedly to find comprehensive solutions. They include the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This, because the Palestinian people's issue is the Arabs' foremost issue, since it is an issue of destiny and existence. The Arab world will enjoy no stability or security until it finds a just solution to it, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, Arab resolutions, and the Palestinian people's right to exercise their inalienable national rights.

['Ajjaj] While preparations are being made to find a mechanism for implementing the Damascus declaration in April an important question arises about the declaration's conflict with the 1950 joint defense pact. There are also fears that the declaration states might be regarded as a bloc within the Arab system.

['Abd-al-Majid] Article 2 of the Arab League charter indicates that the purpose of its establishment is to strengthen ties among its member states and to coordinate their political plans, in order to achieve cooperation among them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to look after the Arab countries' affairs and interests in general. The article listed various fields of cooperation among the Arab states, including the economic, financial, transport, cultural, social, and health fields. Furthermore, Article 9 of the charter stipulates that "League member states wishing to maintain stronger cooperation and ties than those stipulated by the charter can conclude among themselves whatever agreements they want in order to achieve these aims. Any treaties and agreements that they may have concluded in the past, or those concluded by a League member state with another state, are not binding on, nor do they restrict, other members." So we find that the League's charter allows states seeking stronger cooperation to conclude whatever agreements they want, which was done by the Damascus declaration states—Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf states. The declaration itself emphasized at several points its commitment to the League's charter, and stressed that its purpose does not extend beyond the League's aims. So the declaration is a kind of agreement or treaty among a group of Arab states that have decided to strengthen their mutual ties. Such an agreement strengthens and bolsters the League's work, exactly like the Arab defense pact, which complemented the League's charter and supported the League's work in the military field. So I believe that the Damascus declaration strengthens the Arab League's action and helps it to tackle many matters and issues that concern the Arab states. It by no means represents a bloc in joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

Arab League Lauds U.S. Stand on Loans to Israel

NC2802141992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] The Arab League stressed in a statement today that the U.S. Administration's stand on loan guarantees requested by Israel to accommodate new immigrants and build more settlements is a constructive stand that requires encouragement. This is because it is compatible with international legitimacy and is in line with the will of the vast majority of UN members, as well as the just Palestinian and Arab demands.

The statement added that the U.S. stand, made public by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, reconfirms the position followed by the U.S. Administration since the year 1967, which opposes the construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories as constituting an obstacle to peace. This position is marked by a degree of firmness and credibility and, if adhered to and built upon, will serve the peace process and encourage Arab commitment to the peace negotiations until the end.

Arab League Secretary General Returns From Yemen

NC2802123292 Cairo MENA in English 1055 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned here from Sanaa this morning following a three-day visit to Yemen.

He told reporters that he met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. 'Abd-al- Majid's talks with the two leaders covered the latest Arab developments and current peace efforts.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Says Israel Seeks To Kill 'Arafat, Others

NC0203220092 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The PLO has received information that Israel is planning to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders in Tunis. Palestinian sources confirmed that President 'Arafat and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, are currently employing strict security measures to foil any Israeli assassination attempt.

Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, disclosed that Israeli wants to assassinate 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders in their capacity as symbols of the Palestinian cause. Subayh warned of new attempts to assassinate Palestinian leaders and added that if this takes place it would turn the region into an ocean of blood and hatred.

Subayh noted that Tunisian security measures are sufficient and can protect all PLO members.

The Palestinian president is currently making an Arab tour. He has already visited Sudan and Yemen and is expected to visit Cairo.

'Arafat Sends Congratulations to King Fahd

LD2802222292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, today cabled His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, on the 10th anniversary of his accession to the throne in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In his cable Brother Abu-'Ammar said: On this auspicious occasion we wish your majesty all good health, happiness, and long life so that you may continue to lead the national march of your people along the road of building, development, and cultural progress to enhance their sovereignty, strength, progress, and prosperity. We also express our high esteem for the noble and great services that you have offered and continue to offer as custodian of the two holy mosques.

We also highly value your sincere and benevolent efforts to deliver the third of the two holy places and the first of the two qiblas from the grip of the treacherous Israeli occupation.

I take this great opportunity to express to your majesty our profound gratitude for the brotherly support and constant and principled backing that you have given to the just cause of our people and their holy jihad and blessed intifadah. Our people are continuing their jihad and intifadah with deep-rooted faith and unwavering national determination under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, in order to end the Israeli occupation of their land and blessed sanctities and to establish a just peace in the region which would guarantee our people the restoration and exercise of their inalienable national rights. Foremost among these is their right to return, exercise self-determination, and establish an independent state of their own with Jerusalem as its capital.

Algeria

Reaction to Boudiaf's Call for National Rally

LD2902103492 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, Feb 29 (APS)—The national democratic gathering for which the chairman of the Higher State Committee, Mohamed Boudiaf, called is among the priorities in the agenda of the Higher State Committee in order to gather the various components of society around a program in order to get the country out of the crisis. Boudiaf considers that the premises of a settlement of the situation lived through by the country would lie in a "national non political gathering, the only one capable of posing the true problems lived through by Algeria".

This gathering does not mean, according to Boudiaf, "a gathering of political parties", adding that it has its force from youth. Given the fact that youth represent 70 per cent of the population, the call of Boudiaf to this component of society is significant as it will enable to give them back confidence in themselves by offering them chances to express their concerns and visions through their participation in the improvement of the situation "through work and by putting their potentialities, capacities and integrity at the service of the country".

In this context, Boudiaf reiterated, during the meeting organized by the General Union of Algerian Workers, his call on workers "to adopt the idea of the creation of a national democratic gathering which will include all the components of society, mainly youth so as to get the country out of the crisis it is going through and reach harmony between those governing and those governed".

On his turn, the secretary general of the National Organization of Moudjahidin (War Veterans), Ali Kafi, who is also member of the Higher State Committee, invited the participants in the extraordinary session of the organization to think about the necessity to create such a gathering so as to contribute in finding solutions to problems the country is facing and "fill the vacuum noted on the national political scene".

As for the reactions of political parties to this idea, they are varied. In fact, the FLN [National Liberation Front] party wondered through his secretary general on the "political or non political nature of this gathering", a question to which the [word (?chairman) of the Higher State Committee answered that "the most important thing is to find a formula of cooperation in favour of the country and that all the components of society will take part".

On his turn, the chairman of the Popular Association for Unity and Action (APUA) declared that "if the Organization of Moudjahidin has bones to pick with the FLN, it is not our problem", adding that "this would lead us to the unique party".

The chairman of the Party for Algerian Renewal (PRA) considers that the gathering "will lead to nothing and that it will only attract those who think about a party which the power will supervise and protect". The Gathering [Rally] for Culture and Democracy (RCD) said it has "always been in favor of any form of gathering constituted in clarity and political responsibility".

The spokesman of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development (MAJD) does not believe on his turn in the possibility of solving the problems the country is facing by the creation of a political gathering". The Party of the Socialist Vanguard (PAGS) considers on its turn that the gathering interests all the national forces which believe in modernity and democracy".

FLN's Mehri Discusses FIS, State of Emergency

NC2902094792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Feb (MENA)—Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN], which ruled Algeria for the past 30 years, has reiterated that a comprehensive national dialogue on all the complicated issues is needed to deal with the current situation in Algeria. He pointed out that the state of emergency is an exceptional one which, if it drags on, could affect the course of democracy.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM, to be published today, Mehri said that the Islamic movement and all its factions in Algeria constitutes a major social political issue, and that a solution does not lie in its dissolution. He was referring here to measures to dissolve the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. The Islamic movement in Algeria needs an all-out political solution, Mehri added.

He reiterated his party's stand that the situation in Algeria is not based on the Constitution. He added that although this has been unanimously agreed, a dialogue on the entire situation is still required.

The secretary general went on to say that the FLN had set out to achieve three goals: curb violence, safeguard national unity, and resort to dialogue to resolve issues.

Asked about his front's stand on a national rally plan called for by Mohamed Boudiaf, head of the Algerian Higher State Council, Mehri said that the Boudiaf proposal remains vague and its details incomplete. He added that there is room for any new party or organization.

Asked about the state decision not to finance any party or political organization in Algeria and on the need for these parties to be self-sufficient, Mehri emphasized that

the FLN has not received any state financial aid since 1990. He maintained that the parties' self-reliance is to be expected. Current laws stipulate, however, that parties should be assisted financially in line with their parliamentary representation. If these laws are revoked, the FLN, like any other party, would have no one to rely on.

Asked about the state's intention to deal with those behind corruption and the collapse of the economy, Mehri said that this was acceptable if it was done fairly. More important is to bridge the economic and political gaps which encourage corruption and bribery, Mehri added. He emphasized the need for all efforts to focus on blocking corruption's resources.

The FLN secretary general lauded Egypt's stand on events in Algeria and termed it a rational one which shows concern for events in Algeria but which cannot be interpreted as interfering in Algeria's internal affairs. Mehri affirmed that this is natural because of the two countries' profound ties.

Report Assesses Possible Dissolution of FIS

LD0203091692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The case of dissolving the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will be discussed today by the Administrative Chamber of the Algerian Judicial Council. The case was submitted by the Interior Ministry on 9 February in accordance with Articles 33, 34, and 35 of the political societies law. The circumstances and concomitants of the case are in a file prepared and presented by Ibrahim Ziwaj. Ladies and gentlemen, we wish you a profitable time with this file. Goodbye.

[Ziwaj] Article 33 of the political societies law says: Without infringing on the other legislative provisions, and in the case of a flagrant violation of the laws currently in force, and in the case of an impending emergency or danger about to affect public order, the interior minister is allowed to obtain a ruling from the judiciary to suspend all activities of the concerned society, and a similar ruling can be obtained from the judiciary for a provisional closure of all premises of the concerned society. The suspension ruling must be justified, and the legal representative of the society should be informed of it. This article does not specify dissolution but rather suspension, and it allows the interior minister to bring action under these circumstances: a flagrant violation of the laws currently in force, a case of an impending emergency, or a danger about to affect public order.

Article 34 is the one that allows the interior minister to request a judicial dissolution if the case of danger and violating the laws, as mentioned in Article 33, has been satisfied.

As for Article 35, it decides trial procedures and talks about the period during which the Administrative Chamber of the Algerian Judicial Council decides on the case, which is one month. It also talks about a challenge [of the ruling] before the Administrative Chamber of the Higher Court, which decides [on the challenge] in a period of one month.

It is clear from Articles 33, 34, and 35 that the action which the Interior Ministry brought is formally well grounded, but there remains the decisive and principal factor which determines the fate of the FIS: the content of the case. The Interior Ministry's petition, which is registered at the Algerian Judicial Council under case No. 192, contains five main charges. These are specifically: —a call on the National People's Army to rebel against the state's authority;

—a call for jihad;

—a call not to respect the state's institutions;

—a call on foreign countries to take stands against the Algerian state; and finally,

—the organization of a rebellious movement and public disobedience with the aim of destabilizing the country starting from Friday, 7 February.

These are the most important justifications of the case which the Interior Ministry brought against FIS.

We cannot get ahead of the decision of the Administrative Chamber of the Algerian Judicial Council, which is the only one legally well equipped to look into the case according to Article 35 of the political societies law. But, statements that were previously issued give a rough idea about the case. Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali stated last Wednesday that the FIS file is a heavy one. He said on the "Dialogue" program on Algerian television on Thursday that the FIS has committed many acts of violence. The prime minister's statement confirms what was contained in the Interior Ministry petition.

Mr. Ibrahim Twati, one of the FIS lawyers, excluded the possibility of the dissolution of the FIS and said in a statement to the evening newspaper HORIZONS that the Interior Ministry's case a weak one which is based on newspaper clippings which only bind their proprietors.

On the other side, Mr. Mohamed el-Tahir, the Interior Ministry's lawyer, said that he is refraining from making any statement before the justice issues his ruling. He contented himself by saying: In matters of justice the opposing side always claims that the case is weak.

The Administrative Chamber of the Algerian Judicial Council will issue its ruling on the FIS case this Monday, and what we felt from the moods and the different statements is that any side, be it the Interior Ministry or FIS, is not certain of the results of the ruling and that the fight is a legal one in the first place. This is the first observation. The second is that the case, although brought by the government, respected the law in form and content, which brings honor to the government. The third observation is the judicial institution's desire to respect the law regardless of the side to the conflict, which brings honor to the Algerian judicial system. All

these measures are moving in one direction, which is the building of the state of law, which brings honor to Algeria.

Court Sentences 3 'Hizballah' Supporters to Death

LD0303101992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The criminal court of the Tlemcen Judicial Council today passed three death sentences on three persons involved in a number of cases connected with a clandestine organization called Hizballah.

Three other persons received prison sentences ranging from 20 years to two months. The charges against these persons were forming a gang of outlaws, the possession of weapons, and kidnapping and murder.

30 FIS Supporters Arrested in Jijel

LD2902173292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] In connection with public order in the country since the announcement of a state of emergency on 9 February, an APS report states that national gendarmes arrested about 30 Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] militants and supporters in Kaous and Guennar, Jijel Gvernorate, yesterday. Among them were the second deputy of the municipal people's council of Kaous village and another person accused of plotting to break the law.

APS reports that according to the national gendarmerie command these two persons prevented the imam from preaching the two Friday sermons and disrupted the prayers of the believers present in the mosque by using bad language about the regime and security forces.

Constantine Security Forces Use Tear Gas

LD0203160892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tension prevails in el-Tout District in the capital of Constantine Province. Hayat Bouzidi has sent us the following details:

[Bouzidi] It seems that the situation in Constantine is tense today. A few hours ago we heard from reliable sources that confrontations had taken place between security forces and some young demonstrators in el-Tout District, on the road leading to Km-4 Highway, where traffic came to a halt for a short time. According to the same sources the situation later returned to normal after security services were able to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas bombs.

Gunfire has also been heard; we do not know its source. We have also not been able to find out whether these confrontations have resulted in casualties.

Finally, it is worth noting that the security forces have been strengthened. It has been noticed that they have been deployed at strategic positions in the town since this morning.

Calm Returns to Constantine

LD0203234692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Tension prevailed today in el-Tout District in the city of Constantine, where gunfire was heard during the clashes which broke out between demonstrators and security forces. Here is our correspondent in Constantine, Mohamed Salah Bousaker, with more details:

[Bousaker] After the clashes that took place in el-Tout District in the city of Constantine this afternoon between security forces and groups of demonstrators, which caused an atmosphere of tension and anxiety and the disruption of traffic on the A-3 road, the situation in the district is now calm. Traffic is back to normal and the citizens have resumed their normal activities. No excesses have been reported this evening, and the city remains quiet.

With the exception of the clashes in el-Tout District, no other excesses have been reported in the other districts of the city. As for the results of these confrontations, according to information we have received from various departments no loss [of life] or injuries were reported among the security forces or the demonstrators, and the situation is very calm.

Still in Constantine, classes at Ain el-Bey University remain paralyzed as a result of the closure of the science and literature departments. As we reported in earlier newscasts, the university council met today to find a way out of this situation. The council is expected to release a statement later. Despite repeated attempts, we failed to obtain any information on the contents of this statement. It seems that the council is still meeting at this very moment. Further details will be supplied in our next bulletin.

Unrest Continues on University Campuses

LD0203233892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The rector of Blida University has stated that the security forces intervened today in the Soumaa university center to disperse students affiliated to the Movement for the Protection of the People's Choice who were occupying the center's restaurant. The rector pointed out that the intervention of the security forces, which were backed by elements of the national gendarmerie, led to the arrest of 15 members of the aforementioned movement.

Other disturbances were reported at Mostaganem University as a result of the strike called for by students affiliated to the movement called the Movement for the People's Choice.

After a short period of calm and stability, classes at Annaba University were also totally paralyzed at the instigation of the same aforementioned organization.

Human Rights League Issues Communique

LD2902212792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Communique issued by the Algerian Human Rights League; date and place not given]

[Text] The Algerian Human Rights League announces that it has received a positive response from the Interior Ministry to its request to organize humanitarian visits to centers set up to receive those under administrative arrest. In order to do this the league has formed teams of monitors under its chairman's supervision. The teams will begin carrying out their duties as of 4 March with a visit to the two centers at Reggane and Ouargla.

The Algerian Human Rights League wishes on this occasion to remind the authorities in charge of the state of emergency that the families of those arrested should be informed of their relatives' whereabouts. It also wishes to point out that the bodies dealing with challenges to decisions on administrative arrests should be made known.

The league, which notes with extreme satisfaction the return of civil peace and calm, calls for the suspension and cancelation of administrative arrest measures on the eve of the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

Egypt

Libya's al-Bishari Meets Officials in Cairo

Meets Arab League Secretary General

NC0103181892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, met today with Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation. They discussed the latest developments in the Libyan-U.S. crisis over the 1988 downing of the U.S. airliner over Scotland.

Following the meeting, al-Bishari said that he briefed the Arab League secretary general on current developments in the Libya crisis and Libya's views on them. He added that Libya will not allow its sovereignty to be infringed upon. He mentioned the possible acceptance of a current proposal to try the two suspects in a neutral country.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1601 GMT in a similar item quotes al-Bishari as saying: "This idea has been proposed. We accept it as long as the trial is fair and there is no interference."]

The Libyan official added that he met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Cairo, and discussed developments in the dispute between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France.

'Excellent' Meeting With Mubarak

NC0103184692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation.

Following the meeting, al-Bishari said that he was honored by the meeting, adding that he had informed President Mubarak of the gratitude and appreciation of the Libyan leader, brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and of the Libyan people for the constructive and historic stand which Mubarak and the entire Egyptian nation have taken in the search for a peaceful, honorable, and satisfactory resolution to the crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France.

Al-Bishari described his meeting with President Mubarak as excellent.

Denies Jallud 'Insult'

NC0203194092 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Feb 92 p 1

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, said that statements by Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud are not intended to insult Egypt.

He cannot insult Egypt, al-Bishari said, adding: Jallud has never shown an arrogant attitude toward Egypt at all. He asserted that there have been no insults directed at Egyptians working in Libya.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0203084192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0753 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, left Cairo this morning following a two-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, Secretary al-Bishari met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and discussed with him the Libyan crisis and the proposals made to resolve it.

Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations, saw al-Bishari off at the airport.

Guinean Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Musa

NC2902163492

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2340 GMT on 28 February reports that Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla arrived in Cairo carrying a message from General Lansana Conte, the Guinean president, to President Mubarak.

At 1315 GMT on 29 February, MENA says that the Guinean foreign minister met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. After the meeting, Sylla said he and Musa discussed "bilateral relations and how to strengthen them." He added that they discussed "the Somali crisis and the current Libyan issue." In a statement, Sylla said he is "looking forward to meeting with President Husni Mubarak."

At 1516 GMT on 29 February, MENA reports that the Guinean foreign minister left Cairo "this evening."

Meets Mubarak

NC0103115692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1057 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—At 1200 today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Office Guinean Foreign Minister Ibrahima Sylla [title as received], who is currently visiting Cairo. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Guinean ambassador to Egypt attended the meeting.

The Guinean foreign minister said afterward that he had conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Guinean President Lansana Conte on promoting economic and cultural ties.

He noted that Egypt occupies an important position in the Middle East and the international arena, saying: This is always important to us.

He added that the audience gave him the opportunity to hear Egypt's views on Libya's crisis with the United States, Britain, and France; as well as on the situation in Sudan and Somalia, and other pressing African issues.

Commenting on Libya, he said President Mubarak is exerting great efforts to ease the crisis, adding: We reviewed this issue, to learn the views of each party to this crisis and resolve it peacefully.

On whether there has been any progress toward a peaceful solution, the Guinean foreign minister said: There is very little progress, and we hope that Libya will contribute fully to the search for the truth, because the big powers concerned require a credible explanation.

Trade Agreements Signed With CIS Republics

NC0203141392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Egypt has signed trade and economic agreements with three CIS republics: the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Ukraine. The agreements call for the exchange of goods worth 120 million Egyptian pounds this year.

Ihab Abazah, director of the General Company for Engineering, who returned home today from a 10-day visit to the three republics, said that industrial organizations in the three republics will export 2,600 tractors to Egypt, with a total value of 75 million pounds, which will be used in the Egyptian agricultural development program. The CIS countries will also export 100 electric transformers to Egypt, which will be used in extending electricity to various villages, including tourist villages on the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

Abazah said that in return, Egypt will export components for various industrial products, spare parts for motors, batteries, and paints to the CIS republics. [passage omitted]

Musa, Israeli Envoy Discuss 'Spy Network'

NC0203170192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek.

Following the meeting, Dowek said that he and Musa discussed the Israeli spy network recently discovered in Egypt. He said he asked Musa to give Israel the evidence implicating the accused Israeli citizens. Ambassador Dowek said the Israeli Embassy in Cairo was officially informed about the Israeli spy network in Egypt today.

The Israeli consul visited the Israelis accused in the case, he noted, adding that interrogations are proceeding legally and that there has been no maltreatment.

The Israeli ambassador said he and Musa discussed the Middle East peace process, adding that Musa indicated Egypt's readiness to participate in pushing the peace efforts forward by holding contacts with the parties concerned.

The Israeli ambassador expressed his optimism about the peace process, especially now that the parties are talking and the delegations are presenting papers and explaining views, he noted. Dowek said that even if the papers are not accepted by the two sides, they are, nevertheless, the basis on which future steps can be built.

The Israeli ambassador expressed his belief that the peace process is currently going through a positive stage, and that the point of no return has been passed. He said the march toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region is going forward.

Army Conscript Arrested

NC2902194592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 25 Feb 92 p 1

[By Yusri Shabanah]

[Text] Security agencies have arrested the seventh [number as published] member of the Israeli espionage network in Cairo, an army conscript who had an intimate relationship with Israeli suspect Fa'iqah Subhi Misrati. The suspect lured him into cooperating with her and supplying her with information on the condition of his unit, the types of weapons he is trained to use, the movements of the units surrounding his, and treatment within his unit. The female Israeli spy gave the defendant large sums of money, saying that she wanted to help him with his income. During interrogation, the defendant gave the prosecution letters the Israeli suspect had sent him. The conscript said the woman led him to believe she was in love with him and wanted to get married. She had telephoned him several times from Israel to keep abreast of the situation in the country.

Following an eight-hour interrogation with the defendant, Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, first public attorney, ordered the suspect held for 15 days. He was charged with divulging military secrets. The prosecution also talked with the fourth Israeli spy, David Ovitz, who was arrested earlier this month. He was confronted with Fa'iqah's confessions. Throughout the interrogation, Ovitz denied that he has ever worked for Israel's Mosad, claiming that he came to Cairo with tourist groups to visit tourist sites, and buy watches and antiques to sell in Israel. The suspect added that he had met Fa'iqah in a furniture showroom owned by his brother (Yuyu) in Israel, where Fa'iqah works. The prosecution received a forensic expert's report on the identity cards found on the four spies, all of which turned out to be forged.

[Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 25 February on page 7, in a similar item, reports that the name of the detained conscript is Samih Hasan Ahmad]

Minister Promises Details on Subversive Group

NC0103155692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1519 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has announced that he will reveal the scope of the activities of the organization recently broken up by security forces, once the prosecution concludes its investigation. He said the objective of the group was to topple the government.

Musa said the organization, headquartered in a computer company in Heliopolis, gathered distorted information to provide to foreign entities to damage the Egyptian Government.

In a statement following a ceremony to celebrate World Civil Defense Day, Musa said that the information the security forces received regarding the activities of this company tipped them off that something was wrong.

He said that a search warrant was obtained, the contents of the company's offices were seized, and the offices were closed down. The prosecution, he concluded, is currently carrying out its investigation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: 'Racist Policy' Behind Disputes

LD0203232292 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 0941 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the General People's Congress session in the al-Wafa' hall in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Brothers: At the beginning I would like to stress that today's meeting marks the 15th anniversary of people's power, and not an ordinary convening of the General People's Congress [GPC], as some brother guests may believe. This means that on a day such as this 15 years ago, people's power was established on Libyan soil. The GPC has convened this session to mark the anniversary, and also to draft an agenda for the Basic People's Congresses. We greet the brothers who have come to celebrate this anniversary with us, and also the friends and members of the diplomatic corps who are here.

I would also like to resolve another ambiguity: The GPC, today and previously, may look to the visitor like a parliament acting on behalf of the Libyan people; this is incorrect. The GPC is a gathering of the secretaries of the basic people congresses, people's committees, trade unions, associations, and vocational bodies. [passage omitted]

The world has a false concept about Libya, such as their description of Libya as a terrorist state. This is laughable. We have abolished boxing and wrestling as violent, uncivilized acts. They have been abolished in Libya. Libya is the only country in the world in which boxing and wresting are banned. This is because they are brutal and violent acts and inconsistent with the behavior of civilized men. We call for their abolition by the whole world. [passage omitted]

These people are too low compared to us. We cannot compare ourselves, as a very civilized people, to them. We have an extremely noble theory, derived from our heritage and the heritage of humanity. We are the only people who appreciate the human heritage, and struggle to ensure that man is respected, has his human status, rules himself, and relies on his own efforts. These are true and established human rights, unlike the false human rights which they use as a pretext to oppress the others.

Human rights mean that man determines his own fate, and not a ruler or a deputy; and that man reaps the fruits of his efforts without exploitation. [passage omitted]

They deny these basic rights completely. The rights that man must determine his own fate and enjoy the fruits of his efforts. They concentrate on other, false rights in long lists intended to conceal the essence. [passage omitted]

The Libyans are being asked... [changes thought] Wittingly or unwittingly, the world is embroiled in something that insults Libyans; namely, disregard of the Libyan fact [ma'tiyah]. For example, the UN secretary general sent me a message, addressed to the honorable Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, etc., saying that the UN Security Council has decided this and that, and Lockerbie and such talk.

This is in addition to those who came carrying messages to me. They are poor, good people. Otherwise one could have acted differently. I told him: Please, this message is wrongly addressed. It is unlawfully addressed. I have no authority; I am not a president of a republic, nor the president of this state, and consequently you cannot reach an understanding with me. I cannot impose my views on others. I told him, in fact I challenged him, saying: I will go along with you. Go ahead and take these two people [accused of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing]. Take them to America. Take them to Britain. But this cannot happen.

They [the Libyan people] would go to the judge and sue me, saying that what I had done was contrary to the Libyan laws of procedure. Furthermore, the Libyan people would say: These two men are our compatriots. These two are from us, the masses—you cannot take them and give them to another country. What will my position be then? Indeed, from the point of view of sovereignty as well as law, I cannot do anything in this matter. How can I say: Go ahead and take two Libyans?

I challenged him. I asked him: Did they blow up the plane? Yes, they did. You are sure then that they blew up the plane? Then they are criminals who killed 400 Americans—take them. Take them to any court in the world and put them on trial, and execute them, and let them pay compensation. But before you come to take them, the judge will ask you: By what right does al-Qadhdhafi take people on trial before me, when the Libyan law of procedure prevents the extradition of Libyans to other countries?

Thus, what I say does not go, but what the judge says does. Furthermore, the Libyan people would come and say that this was a matter of sovereignty. He who relinquishes Libya's sovereignty will relinquish his life.

Libya is not the property of al-Qadhdhafi, bought with his own money. We are not sheep that he could dispose of in this way, handing over two, three, or four of us.

If a Libyan came to me and said: Give us your wife. She is accused or suspected of involvement with Lockerbie; she had a timed pen or something else in her bag. She is wanted in America. So give us your wife so that she may be tried there. Can I go to a Libyan tell him such a thing?

What I mean to say is that this matter is an insult to the Libyan, when they ignore that you are the ones. I want *the Libyan people to assert their authority properly*. They must assert it before the world. The world must understand this.

Without asking Congress, the U.S. President cannot give $10 billion to the Israelis to use in building houses in the occupied Arab territory for Jews coming from abroad: Russian Jews and Caspian Jews. Can he sign an order giving them guarantees for $10 billion? He cannot, and nobody can blame him. They accept that such matters are for Congress to decide.

Well, the Libyan people also have the authority. How can you address a message to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi? Why insult the Libyan people? If this is due to any shortcoming on your part, then you must redress this shortcoming so that you will not feel remorse before the world peoples, both the worthy and unworthy. The authority of the people must be asserted in Libyan territory. The Libyan people should shoulder their responsibilties. [chants and applause]

Here is the message of the UN secretary general. Let it be distributed; everyone should have a copy. Then each of you should go to his People's Congress or trade union, read it to them, and let them give their replies.

The people's congresses should meet after the month of Ramadan [starting around 5 March]. Debate on the agenda will continue for a month, followed by the drafting [of resolutions], which will also take a month.

I understand from the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, that the General People's Congress will convene on 11 June to collate the resolutions of the people's congresses—what the Libyan people have said.

Regarding the message I received from the UN secretary general: There is nothing I can do other than refer copies to the secrtaries of the People's Congresses and People's Committees. I have nothing to do with it.

There is no law that gives me the authority to sign any decision, law, treaty, or agreement. I am not a president. The world must not overlook this fact. Otherwise it is useless, for the world will only be banging its head on the wall.

The world is overlooking the facts. If I enjoy a moral value by the Libyans, and sometimes they listen to me and permit me to intervene or make a request, this is of no avail vis-a-vis the law and administrative decisions. It is useless.

Now whenever America talks, it says al-Qadhdhafi, al-Qadhdhafi. I challenge them: Does the problem concern Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi? Then welcome, come and meet with him at some place, and challenge each

other and fight each other with guns, pistols, or machine guns. The problem with al-Qadhdhafi would be resolved. We can embarrass them. But the matter is one of insult to the Libyan people. It is an insult to ignore your authority, your control of your wealth.

Now they are busy planning how to seize Libya's oil to use to revive their collapsing American companies. To whom does the oil belong? Does it belong to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi or to the Libyan people? If the oil belongs to me, then I am ready to donate it to anyone, even the Red Cross. That is, if the oil belonged to me. But if the oil belongs to you—and the subsistence of your children depends on it—then you must fully realize that there is a plot against your oil. The purpose of all this is to take your oil very cheaply once again, to nourish the Western industrial machine with pure Libyan oil.

On this occasion, I want two things from you. You must assert to the world that your authority prevails inside Libyan territory, by making sure that you decide on all matters and that you rule yourselves.

The world must understand that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is not a president, and he does not rule you or run your affairs except through good words. His mission is revolutionary, and revolution means instigating the people to be free. Consequently, he cannot deviate from the revolutionary objectives.

My revolutionary objective and my revolutionary mission is that the citizen should be free, and that the authority of the people should be asserted. They say: Commander of the revolution, being commander of the revolution does not mean betraying the revolution. Revolution means freedom, the freedom of the people. Revolution means freedom for the people and the establishment of the people's authority. These are parts of the mission of the revolution. Consequently, I will not do anything that will detract from the authority of the people, or betray the revolution. The world must be made to understand that the Libyan people are the ones who possess authority. This must be clear to the world.

You hear that the UN secretary general's envoy came two or more times. But he could not get anything from us. We told him that I cannot act, and it would be better to reach an understanding with the Libyan judge. The Libyan law of procedure states so and so. I cannot change the law. I personally cannot change the law. If the Libyan people want to change the law, they may do so. They are the ones who can change the law.

But this means that, under the current circumstances, they would be changing the law under the pressure of the official terrorism of the big powers. The UN Security Council has not decided that a country should hand over its citizens. It is impossible for the UN Security Council to adopt such a resolution. Not at all. The Security Council said that Libya will respond to the request of the three countries in connection with the investigations. Libya has been acting in compliance with this paragraph. As I understand, it is cooperating fully with the legal investigations.

The UN Security Council cannot decide that a free country should hand over its citizens. On what basis? The UN Charter contains nothing to this effect. If some country has forced it to adopt such a resolution, then the UN Security Council must say so. *[illegible]* terrorism of such a big power, we have adopted the following resolution. Let the people hear this, so that such a resolution can be annulled.

Now our brothers—Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Ecuador, and other UN Security Council members—yield to threats that aid or grain will be cut off unless they vote in a specific way. Then the resolution is void. Not only this resolution, but any resolution would be void. If the matter is one of intimidation, then there is no need for hypocracy by the UN Security Council. They have already decided.

Now there is nothing called the United Nations or the Security Council. They have ended, and their fate will be like that of the League of Nations. Why? Because the members of the UN Security Council are now forced to adopt resolutions under duress. Every government receives a threat: Either you go along with this, or we will deprive you of aid or punish you.

Thus, the countries do not vote yes or no out of conviction. In fact, they vote against their convictions. If matters are to be handled through threats, then there is no need for the UN Security Council at all. It is a farce. There is no need for the UN Security Council, and let the people face their fate. Aircraft carriers and [word indistinct] cannot get to the desert. The people who are targeted are desert people who can, in the end, fight.

This is not the first time that anarchy has prevailed in the world. But the masses crush the aggressors. Where are Genghis Khan, Cambys, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Hitler, Hulagu, and Tamerlaine? All have been crushed by the people. [passage omitted]

Fine, you decide. I turn over to you the messages I received, because I have no authority. I am not a president, I have nothing to do with them. I turn them over to you and you decide what to do. They changed the law and said that we should change Libyan law under threat of a nuclear attack. Fine, let the people and the world hear. You say we are ready to suffer nuclear attack rather than change our law while under threat. Here is a decision.

You can say this is a legal issue under the jurisdiction of a judge. Does Libyan law allow you to hand over Libyans? Yes it does. Fine, if the law allows it and you said no, the matter then becomes a political one, an issue of sovereignty. You can say no, and you have the right; and you can say yes, and you have the power to do so. But when the law itself prevents this—even if we say yes, the law says no—who can force us to contravene the law?

Who will dare to say: You must contravene the law? Let them bring you an official letter from a head of state and say: I ask you to contravene the law and let them distribute it to the world. Let the world leave the United Nations and set up a new United Nations.

The stance we are facing is a racist one—a racist anti-Arab stance adopted by the West very clearly—and the purpose of everything that is taking place, from Iraq to Libya, is Israel's domination over the Arab region from North Africa to the Middle East. [applause]

This is true. He [reference to someone in the audience] is applauding because this is the truth; he is not clapping for Israel to become an empire. This is the truth. The issue is not Pan Am, Lockerbie, or even Kuwait. The West wants to use its capabilities to destroy the Arab nation so that the state called Israel—the West's creation—dominates the Arabs. There is an ancient, racist attitude toward the Arabs, from Andalusia, the Roman conquests, and the Crusades; and from Western neocolonialism and the planting of Israel. All these constitute a racist complex of the West. This should be understood by the whole Arab nation; understood by the Arab masses.

I do not care if the rulers understand this or not, but the Arab citizen who is the target of liquidation and humiliation must understand that what we face now, beginning with Libya, is a racist policy built on a racist culture of the West, hateful of the Arabs. They cannot say that there is no such culture, because they admit that there is an aggressive culture against Semitism, which Zionism exploits, accusing everyone of being anti-Semitic.

There is no doubt that there is a Western anti-Arab culture. The plan is to extend Israeli domination to what is called the Arab world and homeland, so that the Arabs become Israeli citizens. Egypt is the ultimate target. Because Egypt poses the greatest threat to the Zionist entity, they are seeking to tear down its pillars, so as to weaken the Arab nation and force it to serve Egypt on a golden platter to the Israelis, who will then set up their state from the Euphrates to the Nile as a first step. [passage omitted]

When they brought the Falasha from the jungles of Africa and said that they were Israelites, some believed this and started looking into races. Well, I tell you that the Gar'an are Yemenis, the Amharites are Yemenis, the Tigreans are descended from Quraishi traders, and all the inhabitants of the Ethiopian highlands are Yemenis. I affirm to you that the Toubous are Yemenis, the Touaregs are Yemenis, and the Zeghaouas are Yemenis. All these tribes.

But if you now go to the Amharites, the Tigreans, or the Zeghaouas and say to them that they are Yemenis, they might laugh at you. They would say: Even if this existed, it is now a legend, we have nothing to do with it, this is a world that has ended. We are here and that is it. We are blacks, for instance, or Ethiopians. But the Israelis came and said: This Falasha tribe is Israelite, and they said: Go to Palestine, the promised land. The Qazars, a people that have nothing to do with Israel, were brought from Russia, and they were told: Come and live in Palestine, the promised land.

Why was this state set up originally? Was it not set up on ancient religious myths, the promised land and the chosen people of God? In 1948, we said it was myths, and asked how this could be possible now, in the time of science? How can anyone still speak about the promised land and the chosen people of God? We were the ones proven to be foolish and naive. We did not believe in myths; but myths created a state, and we are now under threat because of myths. [passage omitted]

Now factories are manufacturing aircraft and missiles. At Dimona, they are manufacturing atomic bombs and nuclear missiles. Yet no one is inspecting them or telling them to stop. They are making nuclear weapons to annihilate the Arabs. They are making bacteriological bombs. In the West and Israel, factories are operating day in and day out to achieve this very thing you call a myth.

This they are doing it in the name of Christ; destruction of Libya and Iraq to Christ's satisfaction. Christianity is a branch of Judaism, for Jesus was an Israelite and a Jew. They now believe in guardianship. The West owes guardianship to Israel because Christianity is a branch of Judaism; you Arabs and Muslims are infidels and renegades and Muhammad was never a prophet. That was what they said—they said that the Koran was the legislation of Hammurabi. You are liars, they said, there is no Koran and God would never address the Arabs because they are lowlifes. God addresses only the Jews, the Israelites, and the Christians.

About these talks they are holding between the Arabs and the Israelis: The other day, as a prelude to the talks, the Israelis killed dozens of children in southern Lebanon and destroyed many villages, never mind houses; and they got away with it. One Israeli soldier is killed in Gaza and the entire West says that the talks will stumble, and might even fail. [passage omitted]

They say: Let us inspect Libya, for it is manufacturing chemical weapons. What about inspecting Israel? No, when it comes to that, no. How can that be? We are a state, and therefore deserve respect. Why treat us in this unusual mannner? We are complaining that Israel possesses nuclear weapons when the whole world knows that Israel does possess nuclear weapons. Why do they not inspect or disarm it?

The implication is that they believe the Arabs are so naive they would believe such a thesis. Otherwise, they must despise the Arabs so much that they do not give a damn about them knowing the truth. Israel will not be inspected, but Libya will. What gives them the right to inspect one country and not another? If you are looking for chemical weapons, look throughout the Middle East,

throughout the world. Do you want to destroy Libya? Go ahead, use your atomic bombs and nuclear missiles for that purpose.

We Arabs could submit a complaint, if there were someone to submit it to, that we live under Israeli terror, under the terror of Israeli atomic bombs. [passage omitted]

I call on the Arab press at large to revolt, and desist from describing us as humans; we do not belong to the human race and the West should not demand democracy or human rights from us; they should not accuse us of terrorism because we are not humans. They say: That is a terrorist state. Treat us as humans first—Palestinians, Lebanese, Iraqis, Libyans, and so forth—treat us as humans first, then call us to account as humans and ask about democracy and other things. You treat us like animals then demand pluralism. What pluralism, cattle pluralism? Animals form herds, not parties. There are no parties in the jungle, there are only herds. We are herds and you are hunting us with Phantoms, F-16's, and cruise missiles. Are they not hunting us?

Look at Iraq, what is it? It is a hunting ground. A hunting ground for the American, the Italian, the French, and the British military. They were testing. It was a hunting area. They saw the Iraqi people not as humans, but as animals to be hunted with cruise missiles and aircraft. They tested the most advanced weapons on the Iraqis while the Arab nation was a spectator. By God, this nation deserves death. It is even better that they put us in the category of animals. It certainly is, for there is no nation that would accept such a fate, if it was human, that is. This proves our ancestors were not human. It is certain that our forefathers were not descended from Adam, but rather from a dog, a donkey, or a monkey. The theory of Darwin is true; man's ancestor is a monkey, and this fits the Arabs only.

There is no nation at all that accepts such oppression and such a masquerade except for the Arab nation. Is this patience, brothers? Is this patience and self-restraint? This is the patience of donkeys—we have experienced the patience of donkeys. We were patient over Palestine and over the violations. They were breaking the bones of our children in the West Bank before the eyes of the entire world. They were breaking their arms, and the arms and legs of our women. Lebanon is being hit every day, while we have the mutual defense treaty within the Arab League. Any attack on Lebanon was supposed to be confronted militarily and repulsed by the entire Arab nation. This is stipulated by the mutual defense treaty. [applause]

Generally speaking, as regards Libya, by God we say that since the revolution took place, it was intent on the creation of a democratic, happy, nonviolent world. The Green Book points out that violence is a backward means, to the extent that we have banned boxing and wrestling as violent and unbecoming to humans.

Libya took control of its waters and territories which were lost or violated. It took control of its petroleum resources and exploited them for the benefit of its sons, to combat poverty, and to serve the Arab nation. This is what we have done. If you ask the reason for the animosity between us and America, you will find nothing except that we are a people who want to control our wealth and be free. America wants us to surrender the Gulf of Sidra and Aozou, surrender the gasoline, and surrender our dignity. This is impossible. You can unleash your missiles and bombs, for we are not afread of them. It is a normal thing.

Are we (?challenging) America? If she lands, we will resist her to the end—until we die—knowing that it is difficult? If she intends to hit us like the coward with a long stick hitting people from afar, well, let us walk normally in the streets, singing and rejoicing as Ramadan approaches. Stay late at night celebrating, and let them hit with their cruise missiles. What should we do? It is a mad power rampaging, and we can do nothing to stop it. Do you want us to be slaves and kneel down before you? No. In Ramadan, we pray to God in the direction of God, and not in the direction of America.

What is important is that they understand that we will not succumb. We will not succumb at all, and we are prepared to die. Therefore, what we want to do must include our readiness to die. The reason, brothers, is that if I know Libya was in the wrong, by God the Almighty I have the capability and the moral courage to annouce that and to back down from any mistake. We have committed mistakes so often in the past, and we admitted them before the world. This is an indication of self-confidence and courage. It also indicate that we do not beat around the bush, pull wool over the eyes, act for local consumption, seek power, have chairs of authority, have a party we want to win, or lie to the masses.

In the final analysis, when we say there is a mistake it means there is one. I have often said that the Irish Republican Army [IRA], although it is responding to the British [word indistinct] who tortured Arabs and colonized the globe, and God brought her a dilemma inside London, we consider its actions to be terrorism. In fact, we do not like to see bombs in London. There are tourists in London, and some of our sons might be tourists in London tomorrow, with the danger of the IRA firing a mortar shell on them. We are against terrorizing cities in this manner. Cities were terrorized by Italian colonialism in World War II, and are terrorized now by the American raids and the fresh threats against us. We are against terrorizing peaceful cities and children.

We have the courage to say that any relationship with the IRA must be severed. Even if we used it as a response to the raid, this is over. We say it openly: They attacked us, and we told them we have missiles that can hit America, hit Britain. On 14 April 1986 [as heard] we responded to them; our missiles reached Lampedusa and we hit it. This is clear and we announced it. [applause]

When Libya is on the wrong path, we have the ability to say: This is wrong. We know that when there is a mistake, the Libyan people themselves do not accept it. That is, we cannot expose the Libyan people to danger—something we consider a revolutionary policy or revolutionary sponsorship which exposes the Libyan people to danger. When I once saw a dirty war between brothers take place, when authority was in my hand at that time, I transferred the case to the International Court of Justice. At one time a war was about to break out between us and Malta, and Malta would bring in Italy to intervene. No, no, you are our neighbors and brothers. The Maltese are of Arab origin; we are Arabs, and we are all Phoenicians—take it to the International Court of Justice.

In Chad, we used to assist Frolinat [Chad National Liberation Front], and we got involved to the greatest extent because of our stand with the people of Chad. They said: By God, we are Muslims, defeated, our situation is miserable; come with us. We found this before the revolution. Sultan Oueddei was in Libya, and died at al-Zawiyah before the outbreak of the revolution. [sentence indistinct] Thus Frolinat was adopted by Libya before the revolution. Dr. Abba Siddick, Frolinat's official spokesman, was in Libya. After the revolution we found him before us. But when the fighting became Chadian infighting among Muslims—between Habre, Goukouni, etc., etc.—we knew that this course was no longer useful. We withdrew all our forces, until the matter of Aozou.

When the battle in Aozou came, we fought. We fought in Aozou, returned Aozou, and then said: Fine, there will be combat over our border with Chad. We will not fight a state over borders, but I will take the issue to the International Court of Justice. Libya is the only state to respect international law, and the International Court of Justice bears witness that it is the respected state which brings its cases before the International Court of Justice.

What I want to say is that we got involved in things that the Libyan people regretted. Had we indeed been engaged in terrorism and irresponsible actions, we can admit that we were. Then we know that the Libyan people do not bear responsibilty for a rash action, like any other people. No one shoulders the responsibility for a rash action, because the people do not die with you if they are not convinced that this action—this battle—was forced on them, and that it is injustice, aggression, and encroachment; or that its resources, its independence, its sovereignty, or its dignity is threatened, in which case the people would fight until the end.

France once said that Algeria was part of France. Like hell it is! How can Algeria be part of France? The Algerian people offered 1.5 million martyrs without looking back. We have resolved that Algeria will live to bear witness to that [quoting Algerian national anthem]. This is exactly what happened, and Algeria lived and became Arab. [applause] This is because the Algerian people were convinced of this. [passage omitted]

They discredit the Libyan judiciary. They have contempt for us; this is contempt. How can they discredit the Libyan judiciary? Where is the Libyan Judicial Association? Shout: We are an association! Well, this is an insult to you by the Americans and the West. Let us hear your voice. You, the judges, the prosecutors, the Bar Association, let us hear you. This is a serious insult that has been directed against you. They said that the Libyan courts are false, and the Libyan judges take bribes, and the Libyan judiciary is terrible. This is what America and Britain said. They said that Libyan judges receive bribes and Libyan laws are rock-bottom. This is an insult. Can we say that Scottish judges take bribes? Can we say that American judiciary... [changes thought] If you doubt our judiciary, then we doubt your judiciary. How do you expect us not to?

They speak about the families of the victims. What about the Libyan victims? Do they not have families? Do the Libyans who are accused not have families? They never said that they would express sympathy and take into consideration the families and dependants of the Libyans who are accused. They never said that at all. Do they think that we are animals and not human beings, and have no feelings? But they say we must express sympathy for the families of the victims. The Libyans who are accused, do they not have wives, children, and relatives? They spoke about a soldier who was killed in Gaza and said that this may threaten the question of peace. But the killing of tens of children on the same day was unimportant—they were mice and died.

No, the Libyans and Egyptians who died in the Sinai were animals. It is not plausible that Egyptian and Libyans—not Americans or Israelis—are animals. They have no guardians [word indistinct], no one cares about them. Iranians—Iranians are Muslims, and Muslims are charlatans and liars. Is Muhammad not their prophet? Muhammad was not a prophet. [passage omitted]

There must be a conclusion that has led them to believe that Arabs are animals. They struck against us in 1986, and struck until [word indistinct]. They say that they are thinking about options. O world, this is terrorism. Who is being subjected to terrorism? Who is the victim of terrorism? Is it the Libyan or the Westerner? It is the Libyan who is being subjected to terrorism daily. All options are open, including military options. [Words indistinct] that is it, which judge could hear a case under the threat of terrorism, fleets, and open options? This is the bravery of the United States—the strongest country in the world—facing a small, Third World country.

They do not seem to know Libya. Or they are trying to ignore me. They do not know that power does not rest with me but with the people. They do not know that the senario of controlling Libyan oil and pumping it to them is impossible. This is impossible. We tell them it is impossible. If you covet Libyan oil, I swear by God, it is impossible. By God we will set it on fire and not like [word indistinct]. [applause]

By God they should know that if they want to seize Libyan oil by force I will not leave a single drop of oil for them. They will not be able to put the fires out as they did in Kuwait. Libya will remain without gasoline until Judgment Day, and let them take the desert! [applause]

They must understand that if they covet the gasoline, their occupation of Libya would only be accomplished after the gasoline is totally gone, and not like Kuwait. It will be finished in a way that they will find no gasoline in Libya at all. I am warning them now. It is a message we send now, a message we send to America and to the West. If the plot against me was to sieze the gasoline from Libya, we swear most emphatically that when they occupy Libya they will not find a single drop of gasoline, and they will not be able to put it out, like in Kuwait—it will finish completely. And as of today, we will act according to this basis. [applause] [passage omitted]

They should know us well and understand us on that basis. We do not fear nuclear bombs. On the contrary, we prefer nuclear destruction—so that we die as martyrs and go to heaven—to the humiliation in which we live today. We should welcome nuclear bombs.

We are sure of ourselves. By God, if we were in the wrong, we would retract, repent, and plead guilty. We told them that if these two Libyans had committed the crime, we would have neither pity nor mercy for them. If they had committed the crime for any reason, let them tell you that reason; let us say, as a hypothesis, that their sons or relatives had died in the raid. If the Libyans had committed such a crime, they should be punished accordingly. They have been accused and a trial was held. We said to bring evidence, but they would not. They said: Deliver them to us. We said: Go to the judge. I am telling you to go to the judge. If he permits delivery of the two suspects, so be it.

They say: We will impose sanctions on Libya. What does that mean? Will the sanctions change the Libyan law of procedures? Whatever the sanctions, Libya will not change its stand, because there is a law which prohibits delivering Libyans. The whole world supports us in that. [passage omitted]

They are indignant that we are building a steel industry, and that we are manufacturing chemicals and drugs. All this is about the al-Rabitah plant, because it is a very advanced pharmaceutical plant which could satisfy the needs of the whole region, and spare it from importing drugs from the West. How will we go about that, they wondered. Let us accuse Libya of manufacturing chemical bombs.

They should deliver to us the pilots who conducted the raid against us. Reagan, Thatcher, the crew of the warship that downed the Iranian ailiner, and the Israelis who downed the Libyan jet in the Sinai, so that we can put them all on trial here. No, they hit you and you are sheep. But you have hit us and we are humans. [passage omitted]

Brothers, in the final analysis, we are facing a racist policy; a racist stand of extreme enmity toward the Arabs.

What is the value of the UN Security Council if the members are threatened every day? That's it. There is no need for the Security Council. Why do they have members? (?They can get them directly). We want them to understand us this way; that is, Libya is very difficult, and must be very difficult so that everybody stops at his limit, and knows that playing in this way cannot be condoned by the people. It could be the beginning of the awakening and rebellion of all people everywhere, and the final destruction of the forces of evil and colonialism in the world.

By God, a fight over Libya could be the end of Israel, who knows? Perhaps the Jordanian people would march on Jerusalem; the Palestinian and Lebanese people would march on Akko, Haifa, and Jaffa; and the Egyptians would march on Gaza. Who said this? Perhaps, if it happened to Libya. I told them: Let each one of you march from his place. Do not come to Libya, the enemy is at your place, everywhere—march from your place. March in the streets, march on Palestine. Do you think that they have not planned for just such an eventuality? Perhaps you hate something that could be good for you. But confrontation is better, war is better, and this catastrophe is better. Perhaps deliverance is in it, and martyrdom and paradise are in it.

The issue is the case of these two Libyans. We told them we have neither pity nor mercy on one who committed such an act. Please come and try them. More than that, you come and try them with us. Bring an international court, bring a neutral court. Despite this, the administrations are against one another; that is, America is divided on itself, Britain is divided on itself, and France is divided on itself. Each one implicates the other, and they discover that they have implicated each other at some point. They could retreat—they know that all in all the Lockerbie issue is mere embroilment; that is, an election issue.

Once they said that Libya had hanged the accused, and they turned out to be alive. What does this mean? This means that the Western media is deliberately misleading the public. This is a point to be registered, and the Libyan Foreign Ministry will send it to the secretary general and the United Nations. This cannot pass unheeded. This newspaper [al-Qadhdhafi holds up an unnamed magazine] reported that the two Libyans had been hanged. Following that they appear to be alive. What is the meaning of this? Why do they say this? It is a deliberate campaign to mislead the public.

They say now there are five terrorist camps in Libya. This is laughable. Terrorism from where, and against who? Who are we training, Nicaragua? There is no more fighting in Nicaragua. El Salvador? They have reconciled, and we have even contributed to the reconciliation between the government and the front. Palestine? All the

Palestinians have stopped fighting and are pursuing the negotiations. South Africa? South Africa is finished. Our friend Mandela conducted negotiations with the whites, and they are planning elections to solve the South African problem peacefully.

[Words indistinct] five camps [words indistinct], whose are they, and for what purpose? Who are we using them against? Afghanistan? Afghanistan—that's it, communism is finished, the Soviet Union is finished and has withdrawn, and nobody is fighting in Afghanistan any more. This is an internal struggle. When they say there are five terrorist training camps in Libya, whose camps are they? What is the identity of these camps? Who are the people we are training, and for the benefit of which front? Tell me, answer us.

This is official terrorism by a superpower. At times I think that we should go to animal care societies. If they recognize our humanity, we should then go the Security Council and ask the United Nations—not the Security Council; that council is finished, it seats a limited number of countries which sustain terrorism every day and vote against their will—and ask for terrorism against Libya to be ended. The biggest case of this epoch should be the issue of terrorism against the Libyan people. For 15 years, Libyans have faced terrorism by the most oppressive country; terrorism with military force, missiles, violation of territorial waters, economic blockades, boycotts, bans, and threats.

It is the United States that is hosting camps for terrorism against Libya. The international press has exposed that. Let the United States close down its camps. We will go to the United Nations and ask that the United States renounce terrorism.

The greatest case in this epoch is the issue of official terrorsim unleashed against Libya. We do not know why this has been the case for 15 years. If it were one, two, three, four, or even five years, that would be all right. There are times when I worry that the United States might bring a halt to the great man-made river. When they cannot find any justification for a superpower to oppress a small state, analysts say that maybe the United States is determined to bring the great river to a halt, because it wants the world to be in constant need of U.S. wheat. The great river would secure independence for the Libyan people. This means that the U.S. policy is unethical and inhumane and must be condemned at the United Nations. What is happening now is designed to stop the great man-made river.

In any case, Libya must combat the official terrorism unleashed against it. It needs to draw the attention of international public opinion to that, and to set up an international front to eradicate terrorism, which has now superseded imperialism. We used to talk about colonialism and imperialism, and now we talk about official terrorism. They neither colonize and fight you nor leave you alone. Every day, they terrorize our children and people. This is official terrorism directed against this small Libyan state by the greatest state in the world. Delegations must be dispatched to open eyes to the need to fight official terrorism.

This is a dangerous kind of terrorism. What is its justification? There isn't one. After searching for any differences between Libya and the United States, we have found that there are no bilateral differences. Colonialism? Did the United States colonize Libya? No, it did not. It had bases. The revolution broke out. We told them to get out, and they got out immediately. On the contrary, there was cooperation in the field of petroleum, the extraction of oil, and industrialization and agricultural projects between U.S. companies and Libya. So what could be the reason? Paving the way for the establishment of a Greater Israel? This could be one interpretation. The other interpretation is the racist policy. The West is a crusading racist, which hates Arabs for racist reasons. Otherwise, what is the reason for this hostility toward you? Libya is a liberated country with direct popular democracy. The whole world is trailing behind Libya in so far as democracy is concerned. All the uproar about pluralism will be devoted later to the people's congresses and people's committees. [passage omitted]

They say that the Libyan judiciary is prone to bribery and corruption. How could these insults be directed at the Libyan judiciary and respected judges? [They say] Bring those two to us to try them. The law does not allow that. Moreover, we suspect you. All the things you say about us, we are saying them about you. Furthermore, you are the party that has filed a suit and you are also an aggressor. You have no right to hold a trial. The one who has filed a suit must find someone neutral to hold a trial. The one who files a suit cannot also hold the trial. [passage omitted]

Regarding the agenda. As affirmed by the people's authority, I would like to tell you that public ownership must be changed to socialist ownership. The public sector was temporary, and initially there was a temporary revolutionary plan to build up national economic capabilities. After that, however, what is called public sector must lead to socialism, people's ownership, nonexploitative ownership, ownership of associations, and individuals as partners—and those who are self-employed [as heard]—in everything, whether services or production.

This is what the people's congresses decide on in their agendas: After Ramadan, in addition to the Lockerbie issue and the demands by the UN secretary general, you must address this: How to distribute ownership of factories, agricultural projects, public companies, hospitals, education, and means of transport. Even with a complex like this huge iron and steel complex, we may find a partnership to run this or that line, to be owned by a group of people. Let them take it, there is no problem. It is supposed that the new owners will form their authority. What is authority? It is the administeration of resources, the administeration of ownership.

If the new owners of the public sector... [changes thought] All Libyans are called upon to take part in the ownership of the public sector. If those new owners were able to form the authority to administer their resources, the problem would be solved. We let them run their affairs. We will see how the people who become owners of the factories set up the people's authority to run the factories.

If I see that you are unable to do so, and that there is still stumbling, the alternative is to divide the Jamahiriyah into communes [previous word in English], quarters [mahallat], communes [repeats himself], or small administrative units equivalent to a quarter [mahallah]—at least 1,500 communes, or small administrative units, or whatever you wish to call them. Each commune is a people's congress. People's authority will be established in it. All its inhabitants will assume authority in it. They will form a people's committee from 10 basic sectors, and a number of clerical employees, under the supervision of this people's committee, equal to the number of sectors.

If we assume that one of the quarters becomes an independent unit, all its inhabitants will constitute a people's congress, select a people's committee, and take 20 clerical employees according to the number of sectors only [as heard], until there are 1,500 communes, or quarters, or small administrative units. This means that tens or hundreds of thousands of the existing employees [muwadhafin] will no longer have work in the new popular administration. Where will they go? They will go to the ownership which we mentioned. They become the owners of the public sector. At least a billion dinars a year will be saved. You can give loans and facilities to people so that they leave office work and find work in production or services. Those people who turned to private production and services are supposed to form their own authority as they wish.

At any rate, this process remains poised. If there are quality general people's committees, they are there to coordinate and supervise these communes, so that the prerogative will be at the furthest point horizontally. The prerogative now in the hands of the general people's committee, which is in lieu of the Council of Ministers, will move to the commune. [applause] The people who applauded certainly understand, but the rest do not perhaps understand. [laughter]

Yes, prerogatives will go down to the lowest level. Thus, all problems will be solved. Then there will be groups of communes, coordinating between themselves if necessary. Let them be free. Communes No. 1, 2, and 3 would say: We have coordinated with one another. Let them coordinate with one another. I believe that there should be quality general people's committees at the level of the Jamahiriyah. This should be understood by people before debating it. Anyone who does not understand can come to me, and I will explain this concept to him. Then the people's congresses are free to either reject it or accept it. [passage omitted]

Today we should not forget to greet all the heads of Arab states, the Arab foreign ministers, and Arab League officials who have stood by the Libyan people during this confrontation, and made all efforts. [applause] I fear that if I mention names I may forget one, and then tomorrow he will protest and be upset, saying: I have made an effort, I have worked, I have defended Libya, why did you forget me? He would be right. They have all made efforts, but if they allow me, I would say: Primary among them is President Husni Mubarak. [applause]

They all definitely know that the appreciation of the Libyan people goes out to all of them today. We salute—and this is clear to you all—all the Arab popular organizations, led by the Arab Parliament, whose delegations are touring all the continents of the world to defend the just cause of Libya. [passage omitted]

These are the points that we should conclude on this day; they should be followed up. People should be certain that the Libyan people rule in Libya and not Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

'Source' Notes Assurances of Military Support

NC2902112792 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Feb 92 pp 1,8

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] Egypt held intensive contacts with the U.S. Administration in the past two days, to persuade it not to pursue a UN Security Council resolution imposing economic sanctions on Libya. The contacts also aimed at allowing the current diplomatic efforts a chance to contain the Lockerbie crisis peacefully. [passage omitted]

Libya approved a European proposal to try the two Libyan nationals—whom the United States alleges are implicated in the crash of the U.S. Pan Am airliner—in a neutral country, away from Washington and London.

A Libyan diplomatic source in Cairo affirmed that the United States and Britain failed to produce documents or evidence incriminating any Libyan citizens in the Lockerbie incident. The source noted that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, received affirmation from most Arab and Islamic countries that they will stand by Libya militarily if it is exposed to Western aggression. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Aggression' Likened to Saddam Husayn

LD0103110792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Mar (JANA)—Why did all hell break loose against Saddam Husayn? Because he carried out an aggression against an independent state, and aggression against states means destruction and inflicting damage on its installations and properties, humiliating its people, killing some of them, etc., to the extent that may result from an aggression.

Not long ago, America carried out an aggression against independent Libya, inflicting damage on a number of its civilian installations, such as Tripoli International Airport, the harbor of Sidi Bilal, and Baninah Civil Airport; and demolished many buildings and killed hundreds of children, women, and old people. Not long ago, America intended to repeat the aggression—had it not been for the sincere and good efforts of President Husni Mubarak. If America is still determined to inflict damage and humiliate the independent Libyan people, what excuse does America have to convince the world that the latter was right when it stood by America against Saddam? In this case, what is the difference between Saddam Husayn and any American president that committed and is committing an aggression similar to that of Saddam, causing the same results that were caused by Iraq's aggression on Kuwait? What pretext does America have against Saddam Husayn—whether on the issue of the Kurds or Kuwait—as long as America itself is doing the same?

Al-Qadhdhafi Tours Man-Made River Project

LD2902221492 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 29 (JANA)—The leader of the revolution went, on Thursday and Friday, on an inspection tour to the second phase of the great man-made river project which will bring about life to many projects which were suffering from lack of water.

The second phase of the project is aimed at carrying more than 2 million cubic metres daily of drinking water from water fields in eastern Jabal Lahsawna to the north forcing them to flow in the east and west via very sophisticated systems of huge reinforced pipelines which number 170,000 with various sizes and a distance of 1600 kms crossing the high mountain chains of Nafoussa. The water will be pumped from 500 wells 100's of metres deep at Jabal Lahsawna to reservoirs near Tarhuna passing through the tunnel of pipes on its way to thousands of agrarian and industrial projects at Jaffara plain along the region extending from the water source in southern Jamahiriyah to its north.

The realisation of this civilisational project is taking place at a time imperialism, led by America, is conducting a spiteful and racist campaign against the Libyan Arab people and its interests and achievements accomplished thanks to the great al-Fatih revolution.

Imperialism, spearheaded by America, harnesses its hostile efforts in a bid to subordinate the smaller nations, who are seeking education, progress and liberation, to turn them into consumer markets for Western goods.

The great man-made river represents an important source of life, development, stability and economic independence changing from the phase of backwardness to a life of progress and liberation which America and its allies do not like .

The Libyan Arab people, who control power, wealth and arms, and gave its work, blood and daily energy to this project, is determined to cross its path toward the happy and prosperous life for itself and the forthcoming generations and will not compromise this great edifice. It has decided from the beginning to defend with all force this colossal achievement and stands against any aggressor against this glorious revolution and its historical leadership or against any other achievement realised by the Libyan Arab people thanks to the revolution.

PRC Chemical Industry Minister Concludes Visit

Received by Jallud

LD2802152292 Tripoli JANA in English 1416 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 28 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday received the Minister of Chemical Industries in the People's Republic of China Gu Xiulian and her accompanying delegation.

The reception was attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Strategic Industries and the charge d'affaires of the Arab-Libyan People's Bureau in China and the Chinese ambassador to the Great Jamahariyah.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD2802144692 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The minutes of the fourth session of the Joint Libyan-Chinese Committee were signed at the al-Mahari Hotel in Tripoli this morning.

The agreement provides for cooperation in the trade, economic, cultural, and scientific fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of China. Agreement was reached on trade exchanges, banking cooperation, development of joint investmnent companies, exchange of expertise in industries, setting up a Libyan-Chinese company for industrial production in the Great Jamahiriyah, sports, and youth. [passage omitted]

Minister Departs

LD2802223292 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Gu Xiulian, the PRC minister of chemical industries, and her delegation left Tripoli this evening after concluding their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Gu Xiulian praised the development of cooperation in all fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and the PRC.

In a statement to JANA, the Chinese minister also praised the positive results of her visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. She declared that these results will greatly

contribute to strengthening the friendship and cooperation in all fields between the peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and the PRC.

Mauritania

UDF Urges Boycott of Legislative Elections

AB2902172592 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] There are legislative elections in Mauritania, but the Union of Democratic Forces [UDF], the main opposition political party, has called on its supporters to boycott these elections. Salem Mejmoud Salem reports from Nouakchott:

[Begin Salem recording] The decision was made unanimously at a meeting of the UDF national council. For the first time the main Mauritanian opposition party is calling on its supporters to embark on a dead-city operation throughout the entire country on 6 March, the date of the first round of the legislative elections. With this decision the boycott by the Mauritanian opposition is henceforth official.

This is the first call for a dead-city operation, however. Whatever the case may be, the word given by the Mauritanian opposition to its supporters comes on the sixth day of the legislative election campaign. The campaign is taking place in a totally gloomy atmosphere. The legislative elections have already been described by the opposition as a real farce. The opposition emphasized that only the ruling government and those who support it are really involved in the exercise.

As a reminder, let us point out that the boycott by the Mauritanian opposition had been justified by the Nouakchott authorities' refusal to meet the following opposition conditions: the postponement of the electoral timetable to permit political parties to prepare; the revision of voters registers; a new division of electoral constituencies; the creation of an electoral supervisory committee consisting of the judiciary, the government, and political parties; as well as the formation of an independent commission of inquiry to seek responsibility for the killings in Nouadhibou, the economic capital, on 28 January 1992, and punishment of the perpetrators. [end recording]

Morocco

Government Reschedules $1.2 Billion in Foreign Debt

LD0203101792 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Morocco has passed the Paris Club test. Indeed, it took only a day for the public creditors to decide to reschedule $1.2 billion corresponding to the servicing of its public debt from 1 April 1991 to 31 December 1992. This rescheduling is over 20 years with a 10-year grace period. The important part of the announcement is that this is definitely the last rescheduling, which proves that Morocco, according to the International Monetary Fund, is one of the very few countries that has managed to find a solution to its debt problem. We must say that the Moroccan economy is in good health with 5-percent growth in 1991—the year of the Gulf war—an inflation rate which has been contained, and a liberalization of the economy which is going well. We have this comment by Moroccan Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada, who was presenting his case in Paris:

[Begin recording] [Berrada] This is, in fact, the outcome of the process of the adjusment in which we have been involved for some years and which naturally follows the agreement we have just obtained from the IMF—a standby [preceding word in English] agreement which covers 1992.

Following this standby agreement we requested the Club of Paris to convene, and yesterday evening we negotiated an agreement to reschedule our debt with the public creditors. The amount on which we have agreed to reschedule is about $1.2 billion, and naturally it covers the payments for 1991 and 1992.

[Unidentified correspondent] There is talk of a final rescheduling. How come Morocco is cited as a model for restructuring debt and for management?

[Berrada] As far as we are concerned Morocco's return to the international financial markets is very important. Morocco, which in the past has always honored its commitments in terms of paying the interest on its debt and which has rescheduled it debts contractually, both with the Club of London and with the Club of Paris, believes it is very important to escape this cycle of rescheduling once and for all. Morocco is following an open-door policy and a policy of liberalization and the development of the private sector. The financing of investment, especially in the private sector, necessarily implies Morocco's integration into international financial markets. This integration can only take place if there is credibility. Such credibility will be attained because of the fact that Morocco will not reschedule its debts starting in 1993 and that it will completely pay its debts. [end recording]

Sudan

Secret Government-SPLA Talks Held in Germany

AU0203155692 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 2 Mar 92 p 173

[Text] Sudan's Islamic government of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and the two groups of the southern Sudanese SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] liberation organization want to end the civil war. During negotiations in Nairobi, London, and Frankfurt they crafted a step-by-step plan for peace. At the end of

January the SPLA rebels of Lam Akol met with government representatives, including Dr.' Ali al-Haj, one of the president's advisers, for three days in Frankfurt.

The main items of the agreements achieved during the secret talks are: an immediate cease-fire between the government troops and the two rebel armies, a peace conference in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, the repatriation of all refugees, and an internationally supervised referendum on whether the Christian-animistic southern Sudan should form a confederation with the Muslim north or strive for complete independence.

The sensational change in one of the longest and bloodiest conflicts in Africa started as early as last summer. At that time SPLA dissidents rebelled against their dictatorial leader John Garang, who advocates a "united secular Sudan." The SPLA rebels—among them Garang's brother Costello Garang Ring—call for an independent southern Sudan, and may rely on support by the majority of the population. "It is the democratic right of the northern Sudanese to establish their Islamic state," Costello Garang Ring says, "but the southern Sudanese also have the right to follow their own path and thus finally put an end to this fateful war."

Among the rulers in the capital city the sentiment seems to have gained ground that the black African South cannot be defeated and that the war only prevents the North from implementing its Islamic goals. Even hardliners such as fundamentalist chief Hasan al-Turabi intend to accept the South's independence.

'Heavy Fighting' Reported Between SPLA Factions

EA0203170592 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1330 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] We have learned that heavy fighting is taking place between the al-Nasir and Torit factions of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. Such clashes were reported last month.

Relief workers in Nairobi said that these latest clashes occurred because the two factions have been robbing each other and stealing the other's cattle. The factions are also short of food. The relief workers said that they have seen people dying of hunger and disease on the road to Bor, and some were found dead beside a nearby stream. About 6,000 rebels have died in the factional fighting.

Meanwhile, the outlaws Riak Mashar [Teny] and Lam Akol [Ajawin] have released a press statement disclosing that Garang has been arresting their members and detaining them in Torit Prison. These people are said to be suffering in the prison.

Report Assesses Government's 'Sweeping Offensive'

PM0203154592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad Abu-Hasabu report: "Sudanese Army To Try To Expel Garang's Forces From Oil Areas"]

[Text] London—Informed Sudanese sources have told AL-HAYAH that the military plan that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's government will follow in the "sweeping offensive" that it launched recently against the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Colonel John Garang is designed to take control of the areas containing oil deposits. The sources pointed that the offensive, for which the government has been planning since 1989, has five points:

1. Launching an attack on al-Wahdah Directorate in order to reach the oil-rich southern area of Pantoi with the aim of "cleaning out the rebels" and moving in Bedouin settlers in preparation for a start to oil drilling.

2. Mobilizing forces from Kusti southward along the White Nile to reach the southern city of Burr.

3. Mobilizing other forces from al-Damazin, south of the Blue Nile, along the Ethiopian border to reach Akubu, near the Sudanese-Ethiopian border.

4. The Waw city axis right to the west of southern Equatoria.

5. The Juba-Torit axis.

These sources expect the first axis to be the main part of the offensive and that the other four axes will seek to disperse Garang's forces and divert their attention from the Pantoi area, and also to deal them a fatal blow.

The sources added that the government, which is supported by the National Islamic Front, has deployed an unprecedented volume of troops and equipment to complete its offensive, perhaps in the next few weeks or before the start of autumn in May [as published].

The sources said that Khartoum has recently received the second shipment of Chinese heavy weapons such as tanks and armored personnel carriers. It received the first shipment, which was agreed upon by Sadiq al-Mahdi's government before he was toppled in 1989, last year. The sources emphasized that the second arms deal was concluded with Iranian financing. The government has also received quantities of ammunition and light weapons from Libya, Iran, and Iraq.

Meanwhile, southern sources have said that the SPLM too has received two arms shipments from Namibia, the first seven months ago, and the second, which cost about $5 million, in recent weeks. They added that the movement has adopted two strategies in confronting the government offensive: The first stipulates that the Army be confronted in the positions controlled by its own forces, and the second calls for a withdrawal from towns that can be easily besieged.

The sources defined the scale of the anticipated offensive by citing the recent evacuation of the southern al-Madi and al-Ashuli tribes to Uganda, for these tribes do not usually leave their areas if they did not feel that an all-out offensive is imminent.

In London, Buna Malwal, who is close to Col. Garang, has accused the Sudanese Government of using Iranian troops—he estimated them at some 5,000—in its war against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, in addition to the $300 million that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani promised Khartoum during his visit in December.

Malwal, a former information minister and considered an influential figure in Sudanese politics, expressed his belief that the government, which intends to concentrate its offensive against Garang's forces, will avoid attacking the wing belonging to Dr. Riak Mashar, who rebelled against the movement and broke away from it last year.

Northern politicians have supported these expectations and pointed out that the government has probably avoided a fight with the breakaway wing at this stage, although it intends to pass through one of its axes, near the Maban [as published] area (Upper Nile Directorate), which contains the ammunition dumps belonging to Mashar's wing, known now as "al-Nasir" wing.

Malwal said: "The Islamic Front government wishes to keep the al-Nasir group as a trump card to use against Garang if its offensive fails to finish him off, especially as the breakaway wing's aims of implementing a confederal system in Sudan are consistent with the government's aims in the same connection."

Meanwhile, the Kenyan church, which is mediating between the SPLM's two wings, has asked Garang and Mashar for more time to work on bringing their views closer together with regard to their concept of southern Sudan's future.

Nairobi TV Reports al-Bashir Amnesty Offer

EA2802165792 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1000 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Sudan's military leader General 'Umar al-Bashir has declared an amnesty for armed rebels in southern Sudan. The offer came during a speech by al-Bashir delivered to the Council for Peace and Development in southern Sudan, a recently created government agency. Official sources in Khartoum, however, gave no details about the amnesty offer, which was the third issued by al-Bashir since he seized power in a coup in June 1989.

The amnesty was aimed at the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which has been fighting a guerrilla war since 1983 in the mainly Christian South against the Muslim North.

Tunisia

Karoui Scores 'Terrorist' Groups Invoking Religion

LD0303005192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Following instructions from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Prime Minister Mr. Hamed Karoui chaired yesterday afternoon in Tunis the opening of the proceedings of the African committee for human and people's rights. [passage omitted]

The prime minister added that the paradox was that some groups which claim to speak in the name of religion—and religion has nothing to do with them—refuse the recourse to the logic of wisdom, legitimacy, and law. All people are acquainted with the terrorist reality and the destructive intentions of these groups who do not feel embarrassed about shedding crocodile tears for human rights and instead present themselves as victims. When did these rights permit killing, bloodshed, and planning assassinations? [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Aircraft Seized by Iraq in Gulf War Recovered

LD0103174792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 1 Mar (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Kuwaiti air command announced that Kuwait has recovered a second batch of aircraft captured by the Iraqi regime during the occupation of Kuwait. In a statement to KUNA, the source said that the batch is comprised of four helicopters: two Pumas and two Gazelles. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Further on Iraqi Opposition Conference

SAIRI's al-Hakim Addresses Media

LD2902064992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2245 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—Muhammad al-Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], expressed pride in having met King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, last night.

He expressed his appreciation for the king's eagerness to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and his awareness and understanding of the general situation inside Iraq.

At a news conference yesterday evening in Riyadh he spoke of the positiveness of the meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques and of topics discussed at the meeting.

He indicated that he presented to the custodian of the two holy mosques the general situation inside Iraq and forecasts for the future.

He said: "The position of the custodian of the two holy mosques is positive and is characterized by a spirit of responsibility; the responsibility of the Muslim toward his fellow Muslim; the responsibility of a neighbor toward his neighbors; and the responsibility of the conscious person who understands the circumstances of the Iraqi people and their tragedy."

Mr. al-Hakim explained that the custodian of the two holy mosques had spoken during the meeting of the Iraqi regime's aggression against the State of Kuwait and of the phases preceding and following it.

He described the position of the custodian of the two holy mosques toward the invasion of Kuwait as characterized by wisdom, courage, and resolve.

He said that the custodian of the two holy mosques had put forward, during the meeting, an idea which deserves attention and which can be summed up as: A tyrannical ruler who gives neither his people nor his advisers an opportunity to convey facts to him will meet a dark end and will cause his people many problems.

He noted that the exalted king cited many examples of past and contemporary history on this matter.

He said that he thought the custodian of the two holy mosques presented a picture of the nature of conditions inside Iraq as being due to Saddam's not permitting anyone to oppose his views.

He said: "Anyone who opposes his view will end up dead, and consequently the clique which surrounds him is a clique of beneficiaries, and the situation continued until it reached the state in which it is now."

Mr. al-Hakim explained that the custodian of the two holy mosques spoke during the meeting about the social, economic, and cultural achievements which the Kingdom managed to realize at the domestic and external level throughout past decades and particularly the last four decades.

He said: "King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz spoke about the great aid which the Kingdom has given to various Islamic and Arab nations and the wrong that the Kingdom faced in this field after all the help it had given."

He finally said about his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques: "The situation generally is that of amity and confidence. We trust Almighty God will guide us to do all that serves Islam and the Muslims and all that serves the area and welfare of the Iraqi people."

Mr. al-Hakim praised the attention that the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques is giving Iraqi refugees, who were nicknamed "the guests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

He said: "The guests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Iraq who were expelled by the regime sought refuge in this safe place, and they have received good care and attention from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

When asked about his impressions after visiting Iraqi refugee camps, he said: "I received a good impression from the visit."

He pointed out that the Kingdom does not wish to talk about what good work it is doing vis-a-vis the Iraqi refugees. He said that the services and welfare it is providing to these refugee brothers is almost unparalleled in our world today. He said that his statements on the good condition of Iraqi refugees in the Kingdom stems from his knowledge of the condition of refugees in other countries in other parts of the world and the type of aid provided to them. Mr. al-Hakim spoke about his visit to the Kingdom and its aims, and reaffirmed that the fundamental aims of the visit have been fully realized. He said: "Among the most important goals of this visit was the consolidation of relations with the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, which has a significant position not only with regard to the question of the Iraqi people but also in the Islamic world."

He pointed out that during his meetings with officials in the Kingdom he had proposed ideas concerning the conditions of the Iraqi people and the latter's movement to confront the tyranny of the Saddam regime. He mentioned that he had met with the Iraqi opposition group in order to exchange ideas and views and to strive to arrive at a unified position vis-a-vis the question of the Iraqi people. He pointed out that his meeting with the Iraqi opposition did not represent an opposition conference or meeting but rather took place according to the wishes of some opposition members. He said: "I met with a great response from the brother officials here in the Kingdom, particularly the custodian of the two holy mosques."

In his replies to questions from journalists, Mr. al-Hakim told journalists that to arrive at a unified political leadership for the Iraqi opposition was not an aim of his visit, nor was this one of the issues discussed during his meeting with the Iraqi opposition.

He said: "We agreed on the program of confrontation with the Saddam regime and how we envisage the future of Iraq in general." Mr. al-Hakim described the uprising of the Iraqi people against the Saddam regime at this time last year as a popular explosion that did not take place according to a political decision. He referred to the regime's savage persecution operations against the sons of the Iraqi people and said: "I have not known in history a position by a regime vis-a-vis its own people such as this which the Saddam regime took against the Iraqi people, for it killed about half a million people and used all kinds of destructive weapons to strike at civilians—children, women, and old people." He added: "The regime demolished houses and mosques and used surface-to-surface missiles, napalm, and phosphorus bombs, and in some places it used chemical weapons." He went to say that "the regime also used long-range artillery, helicopters, and tanks against towns and civilians, and that such a persecution has not been witnessed by history."

Mr. al-Hakim said that there was now clarity in the Arab-Islamic dimension at the current stage concerning the nature of the movement of the Iraqi people. He said: "The movement proceeds from the idea that Iraq should be indivisible with regard to its territory and people in all their factions." He emphasized that the opposition in Iraq has been transformed into the people's opposition to the regime and not opposition groups, or parties, or factions. He reaffirmed that the Iraqi opposition was capable of attaining its objective and toppling the regime in Iraq.

He attributed this to the weakness of the Saddam regime and to the Army's strong hatred of the regime following the humiliation and destruction and degradation of the people by the regime. He said: "The people of Iraq have expressed their clear attitude through the uprising and thus, when the people unite, they can topple this regime, with God's assistance and with the help of sincere people." Mr. al-Hakim warned against an extensive attack which the Iraqi regime was preparing to launch against the sons of the Iraqi people. He emphasized that the international community and world organizations should strive to prevent the Iraqi regime from launching such an attack and its use of destructive weapons against unarmed civilians. He said: "In such cases the international community would have the right to intervene." Mr. al-Hakim spoke about the program of the Iraqi opposition national unified front and pointed out that the program envisages the nature of the conditions being experienced by the Iraqi people and puts its finger on all the problems and bases for dealing with these problems. He added that the program is based on respecting Islam, freedom, Iraq's territorial integrity, the unity of the Iraqi people, and on abolishing discrimination. It is also based on good-neighborly relations with neighboring states and coexistence with the international community on the basis of mutual respect and a commitment to international conventions and treaties and on Arab and Islamic solidarity.

Mr. al-Hakim reaffirmed that since it came to power the ruling regime in Iraq had worked to put an end to Islam and Islamic culture. He reviewed some of the crimes that the regime had committed against Islam and the Muslim ulema in Iraq. He said that this regime deals with Iraq and its people like a master and his slave.

He spoke about his own personal experience with the Iraqi regime and the imprisonment and detention he has suffered several times. He said that the Iraqi regime used its wars and military adventures as a way to suppress the voices of the oppressed inside Iraq.

He concluded: "Oppression in Iraq is not a mere oppression; it is a threat to all values and principles, and it is a disfigurement of man inside Iraq and a threat to the natural and social environment of the Iraqi people."

Opposition Issues Statement

NC0203201792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Statement issued by the Iraqi opposition meeting in Riyadh; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

A number of Iraqi national figures living in exile held a meeting in Riyadh from 25 to 28 February during the visit of His Eminence Sayyid Muhammad al-Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Views were exchanged with the leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal

Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, crown prince; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, defense minister.

The meetings were cordial and objective. It was unanimously agreed to end the injustice, repression, and starvation suffered by the Iraqi people due to their subjugation to a tyrannical authority and a dictatorial regime, one which perpetrates international and humanitarian crimes and subjects Iraqi sovereignty and independence to violations and humiliation.

The conferees extended to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, their profound appreciation and thanks for the support he has given the Iraqi cause.

The conferees studied the current situation in Iraq and agreed on a common concept of how to bring about our Iraqi people's salvation. They agreed on basic principles on which to build the future Iraq: to protect its independence, territorial integrity, and unity of its people; to establish the principle of real autonomy for the Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan; to establish democratic rule for all Iraqi people; to eliminate all forms of discrimination among citizens; to respect the nation's creed represented by Islam and the other heavenly religions in order to ensure the (?establishment) of constitutional authority through direct free elections; to adopt a policy of good-neighborliness and of true and effective cooperation in order to entrench the correct bases for security in the region and to discard the policy of aggression; and to respect the Charters of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the United Nations, the World Declaration on Human Rights, and the Non-aligned Movement.

The conferees emphasize the need to coordinate with neighboring Arab and Islamic countries so that our goal to topple the bloody regime with available means is attained.

The conferees urge our armed forces and our heroic Army to establish a bond with the Iraqi people to help achieve this goal. This could be our joint opportunity to establish a new relationship based on love and understanding and on letting bygones be bygones. We emphasize to the Army commanders and government officials that our participation with the Iraqi people in the task of toppling Saddam's regime is the way to close the file on yesterday's mistakes and to remove the responsibility and the questions for any harm done.

In this regard we appeal to the Arab, Islamic, and international communities to protect the people by issuing a new UN resolution to prevent the bloody regime from owning and using weapons of mass destruction.

The conferees appreciate the need to hold a general national conference for all Iraqi opposition groups and figures, wherever they are, one which will establish a national council [majlis watani] representing all sectors of the people. In view of the Iraqi people's desire to have a general national conference, the conferees agreed to urge those concerned to hold this required conference.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Signed: The Iraqi national figures meeting in Riyadh

Radio Hails U.S. Rejection of Israeli 'Blackmail'

LD2702225992 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Dear Listeners: May God's peace, blessing, and benediction be upon you. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has affirmed that his administration will not give the guarantees requested by Israel to obtain $10 billion worth of loans as long as the latter does not put an end to the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

It seems clear now that the U.S. response to Israel's requests to obtain huge loans has become a firm policy that Washington would find hard to drop-off, a fact that was a great shock to Israel which was not accustomed to such an American stance which was brought about by the nature of new international realities, on the one hand, and the growing arrogance of Israel which has gone far beyond reason to the extent that the leaders of the Zionist entity would allow themselves to cast doubts about the United States' credibility in its support of the peace process that Israel opposes.

The U.S. secretary of state was clear in his statement before one of the Congressional committees when he asserted that his administration will not pay a price for doubting its policy, a matter which was considered a clear indication of the American Administration's rejection of Israel's blackmail.

As is known, such an uncompromising American stance, which coincides with the beginning of the current Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, reflects the American Administration's determination to shut the door to any Israeli attempt to destroy the peace talks and get away with a reward. And here lies the importance of the American position which constitutes a hurdle to the aspirations of the government of the enemy to built more settlements in occupied Arab territories to impose a de facto policy by consecrating the occupation of the Arab territories so that there will be no [Arab] territory left to negotiate about, a matter which the American decision-makers were aware of. Today, they are convinced more than ever before that Israel has obtained quite a lot from the United States and therefore it is now her turn to pay back. She should, furthermore, be checked as her flagrant behavior can constitute a serious threat to the American people's national interests to which Israel has never paid any attention.

Therefore, any uncompromising stance toward the Israeli enemy should be beneficial to the peace process. And seems now that Washington will never allow Israel to destroy such a process.

Report Views Changing U.S. Policy Toward Israel

PM2802165692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 92 p 17

[Iyad Abu-Shaqra article: "New Climate and U.S. Political Decision"]

[Text] James Baker's position, supported by the U.S. Administration, on the guarantees for Israeli loans reveals a "new condition" dominating relations between Washington and Tel Aviv.

More important, it also reveals that a major sector of the U.S. Government establishment has begun to feel that the time has come to put the official framework of this condition into effect, and in public.

This is because—according to that sector, and especially in the Republican Party and the tendency that is less linked to the "Zionist lobby" among rural Democrats—the United States is going through a difficult phase of reassessing its economy after the war of military spending against the Communist bloc, which lasted for years and which contributed effectively to the huge U.S. budget deficit, especially in the eighties.

And today, when presidential and congressional candidates are competing to make proposals for austerity or changes to economic institutions—and in a way that brings to mind the dialogues that took place in post-World War II Europe—it is clear to all observers that a different climate dominates the U.S. political scene.

There is indeed a distressing economic crisis, and the left wing believes that it is necessary for the state to intervene and to provide tariff protection and social guarantees for the deprived citizen. The right wing believes in the need to put "America... first" and to talk a tough language with the new "rich of the world" who challenge the United States in world markets, especially following the increase in bankruptcies and unemployment.

In such a climate it becomes difficult for any U.S. Administration to convince discontented citizens of the advantages of giving $10 billion to a foreign state, to be spent on objectives to which Washington has in the past declared its opposition.

Furthermore, it will be difficult for the trumpets of the "Zionist lobby" in Congress and for the media to accuse the U.S. Administration of exposing Israel's security to danger, for three reasons: First, the present and previous administrations—amid the "cold war" atmosphere and the political blackmail of Moscow—were the principal pressures that first led to the Soviet Jews' emigration.

Second, the present administration's determination to tackle the issue of weapons of mass destruction after the war to liberate Kuwait is an indirect benefit for Israel, one which in practice serves and guarantees its security.

Third, the Israeli opposition—accounting for nearly half the Israeli political spectrum—has recently announced through Yitzhaq Rabin, the new Labor leader, that the new settlements do not benefit Israel's security in any way, that they are merely an electoral commodity, and that the proper thing is to spend the $10 billion on providing the employment and social aid that the new immigrants need.

Some Likud leaders' hints about starting a battle against Washington's position cannot fail to convince U.S. citizens of the futility of the eagerness to appease that extremist tendency which cannot see the world around it except through its own interests and which is prepared to pull the temple down on itself and others at any time.

Moreover, this positive U.S. position provided good and timely help for the peace process, on which Washington had to adopt a position befitting a serious broker. The hope regarding this position—in reply to the Likud's escalation—is that it will be followed by a more advanced position toward granting peace a realistic meaning on the ground and informing Israel that the natural thing is for U.S. policy to proceed from U.S. interests.

Saddam Addresses Medal Awards Ceremony

JN0203203092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Report on speech by President Saddam Husayn to a medal awarding ceremony; date and place not given]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that the Zionists and Westerners have been trying for a long time to fill the minds of some people in the world with wrong assumptions as though they were facts.

He said that Zionism in particular has tried and is trying to stuff the Arab mind with falsehoods that will have a negative effect on its entire historical movement, so as to facilitate Zionist aggressiveness and enable Zionism to achieve its expansionist objectives and to continue its occupation of Palestine.

The president said: The human mind, coupled with man's will, can do anything on earth. A strong will and an enlightened mind should always be present. Everyone with experience in life's social, cultural, and military affairs can use his experience to decide what should stand out among the tangible elements.

The president made these remarks during a ceremony to award medals of valor to the governor of Karbala', to a number of armed forces commanders and fighters, and to military and media men accompanying the president, for their superb courage in the Mother of Battles in both its chapters: the confrontation of the aggression and the repulsion of the elements of treason and treachery.

The president added: The time of open, armed colonization against the peoples' will has passed. No colonizer holding his gun can live on Iraq's land and among these people, whose cultural history extends back more than 6,000 years.

His excellency went on to say: The Iraqis and Arabs were created to convey a message: the message of those who believe in their cause, who can give happiness to their people, and who can rise to the level of glory, independence, and honor.

The president, who is commander in chief of the armed forces, gave valuable guidance to our brave fighters on operational, logistical, and moral aspects in light of our experience in the immortal Mother of Battles.

The guidance came in comments on remarks by our fighters in light of their experiences in this epic, and within the context of learning lessons from this rich experience to upgrade the capabilities of the people and their forces with a view to defending the homeland and the message of the nation.

The medal ceremony was attended by Presidential Office chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi and General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

When I asked a number of fighters about how many headquarters the enemy bombed during the Mother of Battles, I intended to show you my brothers that immediately after its creation by the human brain, any machine becomes outdated for the human brain, and that the human brain becomes, theoretically and practically, capable of making a better one.

As the human brain makes the machine, it can end its negative effect on man, if it has any. The people who made the machine and those who will deal with it later on can also reduce its effect on them when they know its characteristics.

The Zionists and Westerners have long been trying to fill the minds of some nations with some theories as fact.

Zionism has been trying to fill the Arab brain with fallacies which will have a negative effect on overall Arab history and on a certain part of the brain's scientific activity in various walks of life.

Zionism thinks that it can achieve the results it seeks to facilitate its aggressiveness, realize its expansionist goals, and continue its occupation of Palestine.

The Westerners are also trying to persuade the people of Third World nations that the machines that the West makes are more developed than the people in these countries.

Because some Western politicians are under the Zionist influence, their plans are in harmony with those of the Zionists. Therefore, they concentrate on the Arab mind in particular.

This means that they want to instill a conviction in this mind that a machine made in the West is much more advanced than the mind of an Arab citizen.

The conclusion is that we knew and expected that at a given point in time the enemy would use this sophisticated equipment and these weapons against us. Due to their ability to influence the Arab mind, Westerners and Zionists reached a point where some Arab presidents whom I have met at various times believe that the Westerners can know everything about the Arabs, especially those things that the Westerners believe would be useful to know about the Arabs. Moreover, those Arab leaders believe that an Arab cannot know anything, whether about the Zionist entity or about the West, and particularly those things which the Westerners and Zionists decide to conceal.

It was only natural for me to discuss this issue with them. I can recall that I told them that we cannot share these beliefs or assumptions with them. In fact, as Arabs, we believe that we can know something about the Zionist entity and about any army which fights us, if we make true efforts in this regard.

During the months when the Westerners, along with their agents in the region, were preparing for their aggression against us, it was clear to us that they would

use their sophisticated weapons and equipment against us. We considered this a strong possibility even before 2 August 1990. We completed a detailed study to acquaint ourselves with the nature and characteristics of these weapons and equipment. Moreover, we actually acquainted ourselves with many of these weapons a long time before these months when we used to hear or read about them. We also used to know some of their characteristics in case we could not learn all of their characteristics. For example, one of our officers met with me to tell me about the importance of how to act concerning the helicopters that fire from a distance, the helicopters that fire their antitank missiles from a distance of 7 km or more.

I told this officer to go to Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, assistant chief of staff for training, and ask him for a study that I had earlier assigned him to prepare after giving him the general terms. The study concerned the same aircraft, the Apache.

I told the officer that he should read the study and revise it given the experience of the Mother of Battles. A joint defense force-Republican Guard committee was formed because the officer was a member of the Republican Guard.

The point I am trying to make here is that we do hear, read, and follow things. You have noticed that we directed the armed forces, whenever any formation faces enemy helicopters during attack or defense, to push small detachments with anti-helicopter weapons either forward or along the flanks. These detachments should move a distance sufficient to place our units outside the range of these helicopters. For the helicopter not to harm our units, it should be fired at from the outer range of the weapons of these units, and for us to harm the helicopter we should approach it until it comes within range of our fire. If we manage to do this the helicopter will be forced to move far away, where its fire will not affect our units.

We gave this directive as a technical and military concept six or seven years ago. We conducted a general survey of enemy equipment and weapons, and we gathered what we had known and what we knew later to develop the means to weaken the impact and influence of those weapons and equipment against our armed forces.

For these reasons we see that in the shelling that continued the 43 days up to the cease-fire, and for two days after that, the headquarters of only one division, of 16 divisions making up two corps, was hit. And from among seven divisions making up 21 brigades, the headquarters of only one brigade was hit. The headquarters of the corps, divisions, and formations remained active until the last moment. Communication with these units was maintained, and the chain of command remained active.

As for the Republican Guard, only one of its headquarters was hit. What was struck were the decoy headquarters, for they were basically built to deceive the enemy. We had to give these dummy headquarters a realistic appearance so that the enemy would not discover that they were decoys. When the enemy saw the arrangements of the advance headquarters, the administrative rear position, and communications means such as antennas, it believed that these were real headquarters. Of course, we could not fool the enemy if we only erected a pile of sand, for this would never deceive the enemy and make it believe that the sand is a headquarters.

So, despite the large number of formations and divisions of the Republican Guard, the enemy was able to strike only one of its headquarters. Based on this, you should realize how superior man's mind is. From among the minds of mankind God has chosen a mind to make its owner a prophet. What man needs is a strong heart and a mind which works at the appropriate moment. This is because one's brain can sometimes be damaged like a battery without power and which therefore becomes unable to operate any piece of equipment.

As for the sacrifices that occurred later following the decision to withdraw our forces, they have their own reasons. Some of these reasons are some of the factors of weakness which we criticize. This means that we monitor wrongdoing and examine the causes in order to correct mistakes.

The leader president said: In light of this, I can emphasize that the human mind, backed by man's will, can do anything on earth.

There is nothing that we cannot make. We only should discover and analyze the phenomenon, understand its causes in a realistic manner, and deal with them cause by cause. If there are weak points, we should begin with the factors of strength, and the unexpected factors that weaken the situation should be removed.

Thus, no factor of weakness, except lies, God forbid, will remain. Liars cannot be strong. Sometimes men may lie, but when lies become a habit, man loses all the factors of strength and influence and he can no longer overcome the factors of his weakness for a long time.

Apart from these two factors—treason and lies—anyone can remain strong, and his brothers can help him be strong.

When a fighter becomes weak, his superior can summon him and talk with him while walking instead of sitting, and can ask him about his brothers, for example, how many children he has, about his pay, about his father's occupation, whether his mother is alive or dead, how many brothers and sisters he has, and whether he supports them. He will continue the conversation until he discovers his weak points, but he should not confront him with these weak points because the fighter in such a situation tries to protect himself and conceal his weaknesses.

When the illness is unclear, treatment becomes difficult. But when the superior discovers the weakness, he should deal with it through material assistance or a period of leave.

The superior should also understand that it is better for him to say to the fighter: Take these five dinars out of the seven dinars that I have to cover some of your needs. He should do this instead of giving him money directly from the unit, although the amount of money that he gives the fighter may be taken from the unit's funds. In this case the superior cannot be considered a liar for he is initiating human communication.

The superior should understand the effect of this situation on the fighter. If this produces 40 percent of the required positive results from the fighter, we can add another 30 percent through such actions. A total of 70 percent is good for achieving success.

Sometimes you see me digress from the theme of this talk to talk about other issues. These issues are not far from the theme, however, but are related to it. Again, I say that there is not a machine made whose effects man cannot alter or which he cannot use for the purpose it was intended. However, man should know the characteristics of this machine and carry out his will and thoughts, especially because one's mind cannot work without will. Although a mind is not will, the will cannot work without a mind. A strong will and an enlightened mind must be present.

A mind can be enlightened by reading and writing, then by suffering and constant thought with oneself on all issues of interest to it. The engineer who does not discuss things with himself will not develop. The same applies to a doctor. Reading is not enough; one must hold a dialogue with oneself. There must be an internal discussion. This also applies to the fighter.

Once again, in light of the results of the enemy bombardment of the headquarters of corps, divisions, and formations, I say that these are the effects of enemy planes and this is the result of its air superiority.

These are the actual results of the enemy's air bombardment of our units. With some things having happened, we know about them and will not divulge them. We are tackling them, however, and we have made big strides in tackling them, praise be to God.

My comrades-in-arms and my brothers in all things which good men share in common, I tell you that men are there for each other. One must not say that I cannot correct a weak situation which is close to me, in my brigade, in my family, or in any field. So long as man is man he is capable of changing. How he can make a change? There are many factors involved in this. In the forefront of these factors is how much success Almighty God grants us in attaining the desired results.

The leader president said in his advice to his officers: The most important point you should note—you heard this from me in al-Qadisiyah, but repetition is sometimes indispensable—is that when the margin of the unknown grows bigger in man's mind, man's suspicions and doubts increase, and, consequently, his certainty is affected. And when uncertain things increase, man's will grows weaker, and so does his knowledge. By knowledge I mean the mental ability to draw the right conclusions and to build correctly on things, so as to act correctly at the right moment.

You have to make continuous efforts with fighters to remove or reduce what they do not know. For example, the commander could sit on a blanket with his fighters and explain to them facts about the enemy.

You might not tell all or even part of the truth. This, however, does not mean lying, but rather keeping secrets. At the right moment you can tell the whole truth or part of it. For example, if a lower-level commander asks you about the strength of the enemy and you fear that the truth may dishearten him, you might choose not to answer him.

But beware of telling him that the enemy is only one company strong while in fact it is a regiment, for he will be surprised by the true size and may become frustrated.

You should not misinform those under you or exaggerate in telling them things. Either tell the truth or say nothing at all.

We sometimes meet with journalists who ask us about things, but we do not answer. We have the right to do so, because if we answer them then we should be accurate.

This then is the enemy military machine. Indeed, this is the machine of the entire world. Nothing is more advanced.

Saddam Meets With Republican Guard Commanders

JN2902163392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Feb (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, today chaired a meeting of Republican Guard commanders.

Saddam Visits al-Basrah, Maysan Governorates

JN0103205992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited al-Basrah and Maysan Governorates, respectively, today.

After touring the quarters of the city of cities [al-Basrah], his excellency visited the governorate's headquarters. He also visited the Maysan Governorate's headquarters. The president met with al-Basrah Governor Latif Humud; 'Abd-al-Baqi al-Sa'dun, secretary of the Ba'th Party branch in al-Basrah Governorate; members of the branch leadership; and senior officials.

The president also met in Maysan Governorate with its governor, 'Abdallah Talab 'Ajzan, and Comrade Khalid Kafi, secretary of the Ba'th Party branch in the governorate. [passage omitted]

President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad, the capital of peace, today guarded by God's care and protection.

Al-Anbari Discusses 'Aziz Trip to United Nations

JN0303072792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] New York, 2 Mar (INA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, has affirmed that the high-level Iraqi delegation which will later leave for New York will discuss with the Security Council various issues related to the latter's resolutions on Iraq.

In statements made at noon today after a meeting with Venezuelan Ambassador Diego Arria, who is president of the Security Council, and relayed by INA's correspondent in New York Malih Ibrahim, al-Anbari added that the delegation, which will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, will be willing to explain all military, nuclear, economic, and oil questions.

Ambassador al-Anbari indicated that the Iraqi delegation which will come to the United Nations will discuss outstanding issues with the Security Council in good faith and out of a desire to honor all obligations. He affirmed that the honoring of obligations requires the Security Council members and the special commission to extend their cooperation in this regard in good faith.

Al-Anbari noted that some council members, particularly the United States and Britain, are monopolizing the jurisdiction of the Security Council for political reasons, for there are 13 other Security Council members who are ready to seriously discuss the issue of lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Ambassador al-Anbari made it clear that Resolution 687 establishes a linkage between Iraq's honoring of its obligations and the lifting of the blockade. He indicated that the blockade imposed on Iraqi oil exports should have been lifted earlier—that is, after Iraq honored its commitments.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations added that a scientific delegation will accompany Tariq 'Aziz. It will include the chief of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Committee as well as military and technical experts, to notify the Security Council of Iraq's willingness to cooperate in implementing the resolution. He pointed out that the delegation might arrive in mid-March, for U.S. visa procedures and booking flights might prevent the delegation from arriving there earlier.

Press Criticizes UN Stand on Resolutions

AL-THAWRAH Demands Review of Resolutions

JN2702135392 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 27, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad demanded the Security Council to review all resolutions issued against Iraq and the legitimacy of perpetuating its economic sanctions on it.

A paper article said that Iraq since the beginning expressed its position toward all resolutions and cooperated with the international committees despite the fact of its knowledge that among their members were spies like David Kay but the Security Council had not resorted to international laws and norms to govern its judgements.

The paper said that an urgent matter was to listen to Iraq's viewpoint and review the anti-Iraq resolutions pointing out that Bush administration worked for degrading the United Nations and turning it into an instrument for implementing its will and objectives against Iraq.

The Iraqi paper pointed out that Washington and its new international order endeavour to obstruct the role of the United Nations through pressures and extortion and propagating a state of despair over the presence of an international will that could confront the American ends and hegemony.

The Iraqi paper said Iraq and other independent countries would continue demanding an independency of the international law and the Security Council resolutions so that the international legitimacy would perform its required role in the international relations and consequently boosting confidence of the world in the international legitimacy.

Papers Denounce 'Hasty' UN Measures

JN0103101892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0751 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Iraqi papers published today denounce the hasty Security Council resolutions against Iraq which are prepared and led by the U.S. tyrant.

The papers say in their editorials that the Security Council will lose its credibility with the way it passes hasty resolutions against Iraq. This is because its resolutions lack accuracy and objectivity and are no more than a copy of the U.S. position with all its hostility, lowliness, and conspiracy against Iraq and its people.

AL-THAWRAH says that the United States has begun an organized and continuous campaign inside and outside the Security Council to resolve the Iraqi position, and to circumvent the positive steps taken by Iraq with regard to implementing the Security Council resolutions.

The paper explains that U.S. pressure on the Security Council's mode of action is reflected in the new resolutions and warnings that continue to be launched against Iraq despite what it has done to implement those resolutions. In fact, the Security Council institution has become a U.S. committee with no effective role other than issuing statements which are not based on the simplest conditions that should be met in the international institution, namely, hearing the other side. The paper refers in this regard to the recent hastily issued Security Council statement, which is replete with unrealistic fallacies, accusations, and fabrications. The Security Council did not even bother to hear Iraq's side.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that while rejecting the threats encompassed in the warnings propagated by the Security Council in harmony with the U.S. aggressive policy, Iraq has every right to explain its position at the international institution away from blackmail and away from the policy that collapses before the justice of its cause and the firmness of its stand.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders: Are the resolutions of ill repute against Iraq which were adopted without Iraq being able to give its opinion on their details and circumstances, not enough for the Security Council? Is it logical for the Security Council to issue a resolution on something which has not been fully discussed, and on which Iraq's opinion has not been heard?

The paper explains that the Iraqi delegation assigned to go to New York is sufficiently authorized to present Iraq's position on the outstanding issues. Before passing any resolution or issuing any statement the Security Council should have awaited the arrival of this delegation and heard what it has to say.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: By adopting a new resolution against Iraq the Security Council emphasizes anew that it has lost its balanced voice and that it has deviated from right and law to provide a cover for the crime that the United States is committing against the Iraqi people.

The paper concludes by saying that Iraq, which emerged victorious from the fiercest and most malicious international aggression led by the United States, knows very well the reality of the resolutions that the Security Council adopts, those who are behind them, and the purpose and objective of adopting them. It emphasizes that Iraq is too strong to be undermined by these resolutions or to deviate from its independent national policy. Iraq will triumph over intimidation, political blackmail, and Washington's new maneuvers at the Security Council.

In its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH says that the statement issued by the Security Council against Iraq on Friday exposes the clear U.S. interference in transforming the Security Council, its mechanism, resolutions, and statements into cheap political instruments to realize deliberate and hateful imperialist objectives.

It adds that the U.S. Administration and its allies seek to create an artificial and tense atmosphere against Iraq before the Iraqi delegation arrives in New York, in order to abuse Iraq's scientific and objective position which will be presented to the Security Council in a comprehensive and objective manner to expose the lies and allegations that are propagated against it.

In conclusion, AL-QADISIYAH emphasizes that through its firm, principled position in remaining steadfast in the face of the 30-state aggression, and through its faith in the justice of its legitimate position, Iraq rejects the policy of threat, blackmail, and repeated warnings that are accompanied by a media and psychological war. This policy will not succeed in undermining Iraq's principled stand of maintaining Iraq's unity and the Arab nation's dignity.

Security Council Statement 'Incomprehensible'

JN0303104292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Iraq's favorable response to Security Council resolutions and the unequivocal declarations it made regarding its clear and full commitment to these resolutions regardless of the injustice and oppression meted out to it confirm its credibility, its constant peaceful course, and its persistent efforts to defeat the premeditated evil tendencies harbored toward it.

In an article published today the paper adds that Iraq's favorable response to these resolutions and its declared readiness to implement them—a matter which has been put into effect—were manifestly expressed in the cooperation it has extended and also in the facilities it has provided to the international inspection teams and committees, even though some of them violated the established mode of conduct for international relations and respect for sovereignty. Not only this, but some of these teams and committees even went beyond the bounds of decency and good manners.

AL-THAWRAH wonders about the logic, rationale, and international norms which could have prompted the Security Council to voice its threats to Iraq. Instead, the council, the paper maintains, should have at least observed neutrality and objectivity, as befits such an international institution, to learn the facts and listen to the other side. This is necessary to draw a distinction between facts and falsehoods, the paper notes.

The paper explains that the commotion, fabrications, and the gratuitous and unsubstantiated accusations devised by the UN Security Council can only be explained and interpreted as part of the rancor harbored toward Iraq and the Iraqis by the parties to the aggressive alliance.

The paper indicates that what is incomprehensible are the improvisation and threats contained in the recent Security Council statement, the lack of neutrality it

demonstrated, and consequently the fact that this statement showed that the council's decisions are mortgaged and that it has turned into a mere company tasked with marketing U.S. commodities and a hammer used by the United States against the will of peoples in pursuit of the law of the jungle, which is cherished by wolves.

Tehran Radio Reports 'Extensive' Attack in South

LD0203131692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] We have received reports that the Iraqi regime has embarked on yet another extensive assault against Muslims in the south of that country. The details of the Iraqi Army's suppressive operations in that country's southern regions are not very clear, but according to reports from reliable sources an unknown number of the innocent people of that region have been killed by the Ba'thist forces, while many of them have been taken to detention centers.

House searches and the preventing of basic goods from reaching the region, both on a wide scale, are among other measures embarked on by the Iraqi regime.

Government Denies Iranian Claims

JN0203215992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Mar (INA)—In the context of the slanders, lies, and falsifications practiced by the Iranian regime, Tehran radio has reported that the Iraqi Army has mounted a large-scale offensive against Muslims in southern Iraq and has reported a heavy toll of dead and wounded.

In one of its lies, the radio station said that Iraqi soldiers were preventing food supplies from reaching the area. The Iranian regime thus confirms the bad faith of its media toward Iraq.

Government Hiring Russian Nuclear Experts

AU0203170892 Dresden MORGENPOST AM SONNTAG in German 1 Mar 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Exclusive: Roaring Business Exposed in Berlin; Proof: Saddam Sends for Russian Nuclear Scientists"]

[Text] In the Berlin-Schoenefeld Airport restaurant, two inconspicuous men are waiting for their connecting flight. They are Russians who have come on the scheduled Aeroflot flight from Moscow and want to go to Baghdad by indirect routes. They are not common men: Yegor B, 38, is a laser specialist from the "closed town" of Arzamas-16 in the southern Urals, and Viktor B., 40, is a designer of multiple nuclear warheads from a nuclear bomb plant near Dnepropetrovsk. Saddam Husayn has sent for them—for $10,000 a month, a "roaring business."

"Right now, we have five-year contracts," the two arms experts tell our reporter. They heard of the Iraqi offer through former colleagues who are already working for Saddam Husayn. According to the two scientists, about 50 are already employed in a research center near Baghdad—apparently in full view of the UN commission which is supposed to control the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Apparently the two Russians do not have scruples about working for the Iraqi dictator. "Are we supposed to expose ourselves to terrible economic misery?" is their reply. "At the end we had a monthly income of DM [Deutsche mark] 80. A family cannot live on this after prices have been freed," they say in defending their decision to go to Baghdad for $10,000 per month. There they are to work in a "military complex." They have not yet been told exactly what they are supposed to do, but "we are hoping very much that we will be able to continue to work in our specialties," the men say. It is possible to build a nuclear bomb within a few years, and only a few grams of plutonium are required. It is also easy to procure the highly dangerous bomb material, they say. "Currently everything can be bought in our country, everything you want: people, plutonium, or just passports," the two Russians say. They bought their passports for $1,000 each. Like them, many scientists want to leave the former Soviet Union. "Those who offer something also have a chance," the two experts believe. Apparently they are not referring only to Saddam Husayn. "At Moscow airport we happened to meet some colleagues from the weapons industry. They were on their way to Israel," Yegor and Viktor say with a shrug, shortly before they continue their flight.

Kurds Say Iran, Turkey Bombing Villages

AU0303083792 Paris AFP in English 0203 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Paris, March 3 (AFP)—An Iraqi Kurdish group on Monday accused Iranian as well as Turkish planes of bombing Kurdish villages in Iraq.

A spokesman for the Iraq Kurdistan Front, whose leader Ma'sud Barzani was visiting France, said 12 people were killed and five injured in Turkish raids Sunday against six Kurdish villages in northern Iraq.

But the spokesman claimed Iranian aircraft also attacked the region around Sulaymaniyah, targeting the Iranian opposition in Iraq. "It is the first time the Iranians have done the same thing as the Turks," the spokesman told AFP. He said Turkey had pledged not to resume the raids in recent talks with Barzani in Ankara.

Barzani is currently on a European tour to inform governments of the plight of the Iraqi Kurds. He met Monday here with French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action Bernard Kouchner and condemned the effects of the blockade imposed by Baghdad against the Kurds. He was to meet Tuesday with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Turkey on Monday said it had resumed air attacks against "separatist rebels" in the Turkish-Iraqi border zone.

A series of similar raids in northern Iraq in August and October triggered strong protests from Iraqi Kurdish leaders who said Iraqi Kurdish civilians were killed in the attacks.

Government Sends UN Head Letter on War Detainees

JN0303081992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2120 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 2 Mar (INA)—Iraq has affirmed that it honored its commitments as enshrined in Paragraphs 30 and 31 of Security Council Resolution 687 regarding the repatriation of the nationals of Kuwait and [word indistinct] countries and the information required to be communicated to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] regarding all activities conducted in this regard.

Iraq asked the UN secretary general and the Security Council to give due attention to Iraq's position in this regard and said that its honoring of these commitments has rendered useless one of the pretexts used by some world parties to maintain the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

This came in a letter that Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn sent to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, the text of which was circulated here today, Monday, as an official Security Council document.

INA's correspondent in New York Malih Ibrahim said that Iraq explained in its letter that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry sent an official letter to the ICRC's Baghdad mission on 20 February stating that the competent agencies are ready to take the required measures to publish the names of the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and other nationals missing in action in Iraqi papers, and also that they are ready to arrange for visits by ICRC representatives to prisons and detention centers to verify facts and conduct their own searches for MIA's in accordance with established rules and the Geneva Conventions. Iraq also asserted, the INA correspondent noted, that the competent agencies are ready to sign agreements on the publication of the names and visits with the head of the ICRC mission in Baghdad. In this letter, Iraq made it clear that it is closely following the suspect endeavors of some countries which are using the MIA issue deceptively with the aim of launching propaganda campaigns to delude the Arab and international publics.

In the letter Iraq also pointed out that it proposed to ICRC envoy in Baghdad Angelo Gnaedinger on 17 December 1991 a solution according to which the ICRC was supposed to have drafted a full-blown coordination plan to be agreed upon between Iraq and the opposite sides on ways and means of searching for the Kuwaiti, Saudi, Iraqi, and other MIA's in accordance with the Geneva Conventions in force. Iraq maintained that the ICRC has not thus far responded to its proposal.

Industrial Sector's War Damage Set at $4 Billion

JN2702095592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, has declared that the the industrial sector's material losses as a result of the treacherous 30-state aggression against Iraq have been estimated at $4 billion.

In a statement to today's issue of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, al-Sa'di said that the level of destruction within the industrial sector has been so great that some industrial sites, especially power stations, have suffered 100-percent destruction.

The industry and minerals minister declared that the ministry had rebuilt 75 percent of the industrial projects and installations destroyed by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against our country.

He indicated that the ministry had given priority in this reconstruction drive to power stations, which sustained an average of 92-percent destruction, due to their importance to the lives of citizens, the operation of factories, and continued services.

Commenting on the bad intentions of the aggression against Iraq, he said that the degree of destruction within the electricity sector has been particularly high in order to disrupt Iraq's capabilities and to hinder the lives of the steadfast people and to paralyze their daily activities.

He stated that although many factories have been rebuilt, they have not resumed production because of the unjust blockade. This is especially true of pharmaceutical factories, which used to meet 70 percent of the country's needs for medicines.

Egypt Accused of Blocking Iraqi Role in Meeting

JN2602142892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1228 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—Informed sources here have accused the Egyptian authorities of obstructing the participation of a delegation representing Baghdad at a meeting of the permanent bureau of the Arab Cities Organization, which opened in Cairo last Friday [21 February].

Today's issue of the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper cited these sources as saying that the Egyptian authorities followed crooked and new methods to obstruct the arrival of the Iraqi delegation representing Baghdad on Egyptian territory.

The sources described that behavior as a provocative action, noting that the Egyptian authorities' action reflects their disavowal of the principles of Arab brotherhood and the requirements of hosting Arab organizations. In addition, the sources indicated, this behavior has obstructed the Iraqi delegation's participation in promoting joint pan-Arab action.

Likud Vote 'Impressive Victory' for Shamir Camp

TA0203183992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Likud tonight elected the third septet of Knesset candidates: Dan Meridor, Gid'on Pat, 'Uzi Landau, Sha'ul 'Amor, Yehoshu'a Matza, Ya'aqov Shamay, and Tzahi Hanegbi. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz said that it is an impressive victory for the Shamir-Arens camp, which had recommended six of the seven elected candidates, and only one, 'Ovadya 'Eli, was excluded from the third septet.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed the hope that Minister David Levi would accept the election results. He told our political correspondent Arye Golan that he believes that Levi would continue to serve as foreign minister and deputy prime minister. Mr. Shamir was asked about demands in the Levi camp to bolt the Likud, and replied that they were made by individuals who should not be held to their word for remarks made in anger. The prime minister noted that the struggle over the groups of seven was too acute this time, but he believes it will be forgotten within days. In reply to a question, Mr. Shamir said that he believes that in the future the Likud will chose its Knesset candidates in primaries.

Minister David Levi has again blamed the Shamir-Arens and Sharon camps of cooperating against his camp. He said it was an attempt by a storming majority to shove his people out, an irresponsible act which destroys the Likud.

'Stinging Blow,' 'Knockout' for Levi

TA0303061392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] First, to the Likud voting on its list of candidates for the Knesset: The last round of seven candidates was chosen last night and it drove home the message that the faction led by David Levi suffered a resounding defeat. This report from Le'a Zinder:

It was a night of intense anger and disappointment for the losers and triumph for the winners. At 0100 the results were announced for the voting on the fourth round of seven. Foreign Minister David Levi had been dealt a stinging blow; some observers were calling it a knockout. In the last round of the Likud's internal elections, following a similar defeat in the third round, not one Levi supporter was elected. All seven candidates in the fourth round were followers of Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens.

The seven were: Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Eytan, Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadya 'Eli, David Mena', Avraham Hirschenson, Hayim Kaufman, Ron Nahman, and As'ad As'ad. Even Levi's closest advisers—Re'uven Rivlin and Mikha'el Kleiner, both MK's—failed to be elected in the rounds of seven. They're now placed 36th and 38th on the list for the Knesset, according to the vote they received in the panel.

In an emotional address to his supporters after the results were announced, Levi told them the battle was not over, that the day would come when his faction would do what must be done. He said the faction would continue meeting, but cautioned his followers not to act hastily or in a hotheaded manner. MK Beni Begin tried to come into the headquarters where Levi and his supporters were gathered, to soothe the ruffled feathers, but was shouted down. They were simply too angry.

In his speech Levi was referring obliquely to earlier threats made by his supporters that they would leave the Likud, even give their vote to Labor. Levi's address appeared to exclude this possibility, at least for the time being.

The other big losers last night were the Liberals. Originally almost coequal partners with Herut in forming the Likud, the Liberals have become practically extinct in the Knesset list, with only four, possibly five in realistic places on that list. Unless Yitzhaq Moda'i is now flown in to a certain spot on the Likud list, many Liberals will probably bolt the Likud to help Moda'i set up a new and separate Liberal Party in time for the June elections.

And, the big winners, of course: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Arens. Arens, now the Likud's number two, after Shamir, and his new-found ally, Ari'el Sharon, showed their ability to dictate terms to their supporters and to the Central Committee.

The Likud list, as elected over the past two days, contains 12 newcomers to the Knesset. Two women were elected: Limor Livnat and Na'omi Blumenthal are number 31 and 32 on the list. Among the new faces: the mayor of Ari'el, Ron Nahman; the chief of the prime minister's bureau, Yosi Ahime'ir; and chairman of the board of the Electric Corporation, Silvan Shalom.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 3 March adds: "Minister Moshe Arens said he was pleased with the full list of candidates, which he termed very good, and which he believes represents the party's entire spectrum. Minister Ari'el Sharon was also pleased with the results of the voting and said the Likud will probably have to choose a new voting method where camps would not be able to operate."]

Meridor on Guarantees, Relations with U.S.

TA2902104292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Talmor] Good morning, Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Hello and good morning.

[Talmor] I believe that it would not be wrong to say that you were overly optimistic when I interviewed you about the loan guarantees on this program three weeks ago. This is what you sounded like then: [passage omitted of recording from previous interview] In the current situation, Mr. Meridor, do you still believe that we will ever manage to receive the guarantees?

[Meridor] I hope so, although I must admit that my estimate from several weeks ago has now been proved wrong because of a clear change in the U.S. position. There were several clear statements at the first meeting between our ambassador and the secretary of state. Among other things, there was most definitely no demand to freeze settlements. It was even expressly said that such a thing could not be demanded of us. There was another proposal, which was not good enough, but could have certainly constituted a good basis for negotiations. At the time, knowing the details of that meeting, I believed that we could reach some understanding. To my regret, the U.S. position has somewhat changed over the past weeks, and unpleasant statements have been made.

[Talmor] Why do you think the U.S. position changed?

[Meridor] Friedman and Gelb, who are highly regarded as very important, well-known journalists in the United States and who enjoy a high degree of credibility, have both reported on the basis of their own sources that the issue is connected to the Israeli elections. These are their statements, not mine. This has also been stated explicitly. Mr. Baker, in his testimony before the House or Senate used the term: the current Israeli Government, as though this needed to be stressed. As for whether the Americans are really trying to intervene in our elections and influence the results, I very much hope that this is not the case. I very much hope that it will become clear that the Israeli people will reject any external pressure on this issue.

[Talmor] You hope that this is the case, but you are not convinced that there is no U.S. intervention?

[Meridor] I cannot look into peoples' hearts. I am only quoting sources that are very close to the U.S. Administration. I must say that the tone of things has been very unpleasant, and these are very undesirable developments.

[Talmor] On the other hand, I would like to tell you about a Jewish source in Washington who was quoted this week by YEDI'OT AHARONOT as saying: The Israeli Government and especially its prime minister have shown incredible ineptitude and stupidity throughout the whole affair. What is your reaction to this statement?

[Meridor] I do not know who this Jewish source in Washington is to issue grades on how we conduct policy. It would be better if he were to stick to handling his own affairs. For many years now, we have been conducting the political process as well as our relations with the United States under difficult conditions. We have reached very high levels of cooperation even when we had differences. I am sorry to say that there has been a change not in Israeli policy but rather in the U.S. position. For the first time the United States has linked aid to Soviet Jewry with a change in Israel's positions regarding Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. This is bad. This has nothing to do with our positions but rather theirs.

[Talmor] Let me add a comment by the Israeli correspondent in Washington, who concluded: Careful, detailed planning was called for to receive the guarantees. We should have learned everything about our opponent and about the correct way to negotiate with him. In these areas, the Israeli failure has been complete.

[Meridor] So what if a journalist said that? I know that it is very easy to write for the paper or talk on the radio. Things are slightly more difficult, however, when one is actually in charge of policy. A bit more responsibility is necessary. Of course, mistakes are occasionally made, but I do not believe in this instance that our mistakes brought about the change in the U.S. position. It is very likely that during the contacts between the Americans and the Arabs, the latter demanded that the U.S. pressure Israel on the issues of Judaea and Samaria and settlements. It is also quite possible that the Americans think that by exerting such pressure they will placate the Arabs. This has nothing to do with the kind of careful, accurate planning advised by that journalist in his article.

[Talmor] When is the prime minister sending you to Washington on this issue, and what will you tell the Americans?

[Meridor] I have no plans to leave for Washington on this issue at the prime minister's request—at least not for the time being. Therefore, the question is completely hypothetical.

[Talmor] There is an assessment that as soon as the Likud elections are over this week, Yitzhaq Shamir will adopt more flexible positions and accept the U.S. demands in order to receive the guarantees before the Knesset elections. Does this theory have any basis in fact?

[Meridor] The guarantees are important for us, but any attempt to link aid to Israel with a change of position on such sensitive issues is so unprecedented that we must stand firm against it. It has nothing to do with the internal Likud elections. Such a connection exists only in the minds of the people who wrote about it. We will continue to negotiate and attempt to reach understandings, but we will not allow economic pressures or the withholding of aid to force us to give up our positions on sensitive issues pertaining to our borders. I should note that when the United States gave Saddam Husayn $1 billion in credit nine months before he launched the Gulf war, I heard no demands that he stop the boycott or recognize Israel. When the Americans wrote off $7 billion of Egypt's debts not long ago, I did not hear that

this was made conditional on Cairo's warming up its cold peace with Israel. Therefore, it is very strange that all these American journalists are writing that the purpose of the U.S. action is to influence the Israeli elections.

[Talmor] I believe that you sound a bit bitter and angry.

[Meridor] No, I am not bitter. We are familiar with the world we live in. I thought that the two issues would not be mixed, and I hope that this is still the case. I hope that there will be no U.S. intervention. I do not think it will further their purpose, if that is indeed what they seek to obtain. I hope that their policy and behavior will not follow such a line, because this would have another, very negative aspect. If the Arabs really believe that they do not have to negotiate because the United States is doing it for them and that the Americans will accomplish the Arabs' goals, such as halting settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley, Kefar 'Ezyon, the Jerusalem area, and perhaps Jerusalem itself, then the United States will be placing great obstacles on the path of the negotiations. Up to now, the negotiations have begun in a promising way. The U.S. position is critical. If the United States remains on the sidelines, as it indeed has until recently, and refrains from intervening while making it clear to the Arabs that they are the ones who have to negotiate with Israel, then there is a chance to make progress. It would be a great pity if there was a 180-degree turn in the U.S. position, with the United States arguing the Arab case. This is because such a U.S. position could harm a peace process—a process with real chances, despite all the difficulties—that took such great effort to get started. [passage omitted]

Meridor Meets Settlers, Defends Autonomy Plan

TA0203092692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] "The autonomy plan is the most updated, efficient, and clever means of ensuring Israel's continued control over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza," Justice Minister Dan Meridor told members of the Mate Binyamin Council several days ago.

Meridor told council members that "Israel unequivocally states that at the end of the autonomy period it will demand sovereignty and that it will continue Jewish settlement and its reinforcement during the negotiations and thereafter."

In the three-hour meeting, Meridor claimed that there is not a political or judicial solution but rather a military solution to the problem of the intifadah. He denied the claim that the Army has not been ordered to put an end to the intifadah. At the same time, he said that its special nature makes it hard to quell.

Meridor spoke at some length about his ministry's activities and told the settlers that a large portion of the state attorneys' workload is devoted to defending Israeli interests beyond the Green Line. "There is no foundation to the claim that the attorneys are leftists or persecute settlers as such," the justice minister said.

He reported that ever since the intifadah started, only 30 soldiers have been put on trial for significantly violating the rules of engagement. Therefore, there is no reason to fear that the security forces may get themselves in legal trouble if they legitimately open fire.

"The true test of respecting a law is when you do not believe it is just. The Talmud tells us that the families of those sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin used to praise the judges," Meridor said.

Moda'i on 'Alternative Plans' for Guarantees

TA2802160192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 92 p C2

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by Judy Maltz in Moda'i's Jerusalem office; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Maltz] Sir, do you have a contingency plan in case we do not get the guarantees?

[Moda'i] What I have is alternative plans, not contingency plans.

[Maltz] What are they?

[Moda'i] I am not telling. I do not want to give the Americans the excuse to ask us: "If you have other options, what do you want from us?"

[Maltz] In view of the slowdown in immigration and the reasonable level of our foreign currency reserves, is it vital that we get the guarantees now?

[Moda'i] The matter is not urgent in practice, but it is urgent from the psychological point of view. Seeing that so many hopes have been pinned on the issue, if the guarantees do not come through it will seem like the end of the world.

[Maltz] How long can we hold out without the money we had planned to raise with the guarantees?

[Moda'i] You know what Israel's reserves are, and we saw to it that they are high. As far as foreign currency goes, I think we will have no problem this year and part of next. After that, we will have to introduce the alternative sources.

[Maltz] Do you think any financial institution in the world will be prepared to extend loans to Israel without the guarantees?

[Moda'i] Theoretically, definitely yes. In practice, I do not know what to tell you because I have not looked into the matter. You know what? They can refuse us just for spite. We were talking to other countries, and the Americans interfered; that is no secret.

[Maltz] After all the Americans have done to us, did it not occur to you to tell them: "You know what? We do not want your money."

[Moda'i] It did not occur to me, but many advised me to do that. One must bear in mind that our ties to the United States are not confined to the guarantees. We must be very careful. Obviously, the reaction of some people is: "Who needs them?" Well, why do I need them? Because they give us F-15's and F-18's. That is why I think the matter is not that simple, and such a reaction would not be wise. [passage omitted]

[Maltz] Why do you think the Americans suddenly decided to involve all sorts of political considerations in the issue?

[Moda'i] I can more than speculate as to the reasons why, and they definitely have nothing to do with economics.

[Maltz] Meaning?

[Moda'i] Who is interested in halting settlement the most? Why should the settlements bother the Americans? After all, they are not in New York; they are here, in Judaea and Samaria. So, who is bothered by them? The Arabs. The Americans want the Arabs to remain in the peace process, and they think they can influence Israel more than they can influence the Arabs. Our argument is that settlement is a political issue which belongs in political negotiations, not in economic talks. It is all because of the Arabs and because the Americans want to keep them in the peace process. This did not come out of the blue. Therefore, you must look for the cause rather than the means, and in this case the cause is the interests of the Arabs and the desire to keep them in the talks. Baker saw fit to declare: "We are not doing this because of the Arabs' demands, but because it is U.S. policy," which is the most absurd statement I have ever heard in my life.

[Maltz] Still, do you think statements such as "settlement is better than guarantees" helped Israel's persuasion efforts?

[Moda'i] No, it was a poor choice of words on the part of those who said that; however, I think those who said there is no relation between settlement and the guarantees chose the right words. [passage omitted]

[Maltz] Do you think a compromise on the guarantees is still possible?

[Moda'i] Yes. If you heard Baker, he said: "If you want the entire $10 billion now, you will only get them in exchange for a halt in settlement. But, if you want half of the $10 billion, then maybe there is no need to stop settlement." This is what his remarks implied—you must listen to what the man says—or else he would have said: "You will not get $10 billion under any conditions whatsoever." [passage omitted]

'Breakthrough' Seen in Credit From Japanese Bank

TA2802173792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 92 p 3

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Excerpt] Israel has been awarded a big multiannual credit line by a prominent Japanese bank, apparently the Sumitomo Bank.

This is the first time that Israel has managed to persuade a Far East country to award it a loan or credit line. To date, those countries had refused to award credit lines to Israel because of the Arab boycott.

The effort to get the multiannual credit line (which means that Israel will be able to raise loans from this bank not just once, but regularly and for a period of many years) was orchestrated by Eli'ezer Yones, the Treasury accountant general, who has been trying to "break" the Japanese blockade for many years.

Israeli officials are aware of the fact that this credit line will signal to other Far East countries to grant loans and guarantees—both commercial and government ones—to Israel. It has been learned that Israel decided to try to raise the funds it needs from other countries in view of the U.S. intransigence on the guarantees.

Yesterday, Treasury officials voiced the hope that the breakthrough with Japan will make negotiations possible with other countries in the Far East, particularly the affluent ones, such as Singapore, South Korea, and Hong Kong. [passage omitted]

Report on East Jerusalem Cafe Disaster

TA0203134992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Yosi Torpstein, Nadav Shragay, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Twenty-three people were killed and 22 injured in the collapse of al-Rawdah cafe on al-Sultan Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem. The rescue efforts, which continued for almost an entire day, ended last night at about 1400. Five of those killed in the disaster were buried yesterday.

After all the bodies were extricated from the rubble, Jerusalem municipal employees began sealing off the entrances to the cafe, which was declared a hazardous area. Adjacent offices and shops were also evacuated out of fear of additional avalanches and rock slides from the direction of the nearby cemetery.

An anonymous organization, calling itself "Mehatz Pa'atey Mo'av" ["Crush the Forehead of Moab," meaning crush your enemies; Numbers: 24; 17], yesterday assumed responsibility for the incident and claimed that the collapse of the cafe's roof was the result of an act of terror in revenge for the murder of the three soldiers in Gal'ed. The ITIM offices in Jerusalem

received a phone call from a man claiming to be a representative of the organization. When he was asked how the act was carried out, he slammed the phone down. He was apparently speaking from a public phone booth .

Sources at Jerusalem District police headquarters reported that there had been no evidence of terrorist activity at the site. They said that the disaster was apparently caused by the seepage of rain water into the cemetery's soil. This caused the earth to swell, thus exerting tremendous pressure on the cafe's supporting wall, which was inadequately bolstered. [passage omitted]

Colonel (reserves) Moshe Galilee, head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] rescue unit, pointed out that the weight of the earth and concrete that had collapsed on the bodies was estimated at dozens of tons. He asserted that the space left between the ceiling and the floor was approximately 20 centimeters, which left no chances of survival for any of those trapped. "Only those who were near the back entrance or the front door managed to save themselves," he said.

As opposed to 29 February, when the huge crowds at the scene hampered the efforts of the rescue teams, strict order was maintained yesterday. The police cordoned off the area within a radius of several hundred meters. The large crowd, which had been waiting near the fences for hours, cleared the way for the passing ambulances.

According to Dr. Tariq Abu-al-Hawah, who participated in the rescue efforts, there was complete cooperation between all the elements involved. "If we gained anything, in addition to saving 20 people, it was the establishment of trust between the Arab public and the police and security forces," he said. [passage omitted]

Amir Hasin, the Jerusalem mayor's adviser on East Jerusalem affairs, who was at the disaster site, said that the adjacent buildings which abut the cemetery's wall are in similar danger. The municipality will therefore carry out detailed inspections and declare some of them condemned structures that must be evacuated. This will apparently require meetings with both the residents of the buildings and their owners, senior Waqf officials, who have rented them out. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem municipal engineer Elino'ar Barzaqi said that there are approximately 400 hazardous buildings in East Jerusalem, most of which were built in the period of the British Mandate or even before. She said that the supporting wall of the cemetery was built decades ago. Many of the dangerous sites are in the eastern part of the city, but the cafe or the cemetery wall were not on the Jerusalem Municipality list of hazardous structures. [passage omitted]

In addition to the rescue efforts, Jerusalem Municipality also extended aid to the families of the victims. Nadim Shiban, director of the East Jerusalem office of the Municipality's community and family services department, said that as soon as reports of the disaster came in, a hot line manned by 12 social workers was set up. They answered hundreds of phone calls from worried families whose relatives were hurt in the disaster. He said that his personnel would help families who had lost their sole breadwinner in the disaster according to their needs.

Mr. Hasin noted the remarkable cooperation between the Arab residents of the city and the security and rescue forces. "I feel that this is not just a passing episode," he said. "This will make its mark on the fabric of the city's human relations and should be used to promote coexistence."

Only a few hours later, however, an IDF rescue team was pelted with stones. Three cars were also torched in the vicinity and a firebomb was thrown at Construction and Housing Minister Sharon's home in the Old City's Muslim Quarter. [passage omitted]

Rabin Bests Shamir in Four-City Street Poll

TA0103160792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Mar 92 p 5

[Report by Hila Tov, 'Adi Katz, Yig'al Qotzer, and 'Ofer Alfasi]

[Text] Some 55.8 percent of respondents favored Yitzhaq Rabin and 44.2 percent favored Yitzhaq Shamir in a man-on-the-street poll conducted by HADASHOT in Israel's four largest cities last Friday. Rabin was favored by 894 and Shamir by 707 of the 1,601 people questioned throughout the country. Shamir bested Rabin only in Beersheba.

Rabin was favored by 117 and Shamir by 106 people polled on various streets in Jerusalem. In the plaza outside the Hamashbir department store, Rabin got 146 and Shamir 139 votes.

In Haifa's Nordau pedestrian mall Rabin received 143 votes, while Shamir got only 32.

In Beersheba, the poll was conducted in the downtown section and in the central bus station. Shamir attained the support of 262 respondents and Rabin of 228.

In Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center shopping mall Rabin was favored by 105 respondents while Shamir was by 51 only, whereas in the central bus station Rabin received 155 votes and Shamir got only 117.

Left-Wing Parties Name Joint Knesset Candidates

TA0103061292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] MAPAM [United Workers Party] Central Party Committee will meet today to discuss issues pertaining to the upcoming elections. The three left-wing parties running together in the elections—MAPAM, Shinuy, and the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM]—have announced the order of their joint list:

Shulamit Aloni [CRM] will head the list, followed by Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM, and Amnon Rubinstein of Shinuy. Yosi Sarid [CRM] will occupy the fourth spot on the list, followed by either Dedi Zucker or Ran Kohen of the CRM. The sixth place is reserved for a MAPAM candidate, followed by a Shinuy candidate, likely Knesset Member Avraham Poraz. The eighth place will be occupied by a CRM candidate, followed by a MAPAM candidate, and again a CRM member.

The joint list will call itself Democratic Israel.

MAPAM Approves Pact

TA0103163992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the MAPAM [United Workers Party] this afternoon endorsed the political platform formulated jointly with the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] and Shinuy. The composition of the left wing's joint Knesset list was also endorsed as appropriate to the relative strength of the party. MAPAM also decided to attempt to reserve seats on the left-wing list for three women and two Arabs.

Political Platform Approved

TA0203161892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A3

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Excerpt] A decisive majority in the MAPAM [United Workers Party] convention yesterday approved, although not with great glee, parts of the joint platform with the new leftist bloc and the basic structure of the joint Knesset list. Of all the issues voted on at Kfar Hamakabiya it was the chosen name for the leftist bloc—Democratic Israel—which aroused the most reservations among delegates, who viewed it as an obstacle to its information campaign. Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban promised to raise the opposition at the joint committee appointed to decide on a name for the bloc.

The basis for the 25 clauses in the joint MAPAM, Citizens Rights Movement, and Shinuy political platform is recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to decide "what character self-determination would take, whether it is a federal framework with Jordan or an independent state." Under the agreed-on platform, Israel does not reject PLO participation in future stages of the negotiations after it proves in declarations and deeds that it recognizes Israel and ceases terrorism. Nevertheless, the platform demands from the Palestinians to back off publicly from the right of return and the theory of getting rid of Israel in stages. The clause dealing with Jerusalem says it will never be redivided and that its permanent status—which will be decided in peace treaties—will take into account all the city's special religious and nationalist ties. [passage omitted]

Tzomet's Eytan Rejects Voting Rights for Arabs

TA0203091892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 92 p A1

[Report by Ruth Hayman]

[Text] "Those who do not serve in the Army should not be allowed to vote for the Knesset. This holds true for both Arabs and ultra-Orthodox Jews." These remarks were made yesterday by Refa'el Eytan, head of the Tzomet Movement, in an address before high school undergraduates in Beersheba.

In the meeting with the students, Eytan referred to Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi's claim that the terror squad responsible for the murder of three soldiers on the Menashe Hills [on 14 February] has been exposed and that its members are Israeli Arabs. "The Arabs in Eretz Yisra'el are the enemy; let them prove otherwise. Within the next few days—two to three days—you will find out who the murderers were. If they could, the Arabs would like to see the State of Israel eliminated this very minute."

Eytan said that he does not rule out the possibility of joining a coalition with Labor after the Knesset elections. "If the Labor platform excludes seceding territories, we will not disqualify it as a coalition partner," Eytan said.

Students who attended the meeting asked Eytan to take back the equation he had drawn between the slogans of the Israeli left and those of Hitler. Eytan rejected the appeal, stating that "when you use such slogans, you must not forget who made them up and under what circumstances." He was referring to the option of "territories for peace," which he claims is a formula Hitler used, and to the slogan "peace now" which Chamberlain used upon his return from Germany after signing a peace treaty on the eve of World War II.

Eytan presented the students with his party's policy and plan for combating unemployment, which makes employment conditional on holding Israeli citizenship. "All foreign workers must be expelled from the State of Israel. We must allow only Israeli citizens to work on its territory." Eytan added that restricting voting rights and making them conditional on national service is common practice in several European countries where military service is compulsory and had been in force in the United States as well, until compulsory military service there was revoked.

Eytan called on the government to waive the U.S. loan guarantees. "The government should not be the manager of hospitals or factories, except for defense industries," he said.

Settlement Halt in Exchange for Guarantees Opposed

TA2802190792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah posed the following question: The United States makes the granting of the loan guarantees conditional on a halt in settlement activities. Should Israel accept this condition or not?

The answers, quoted in percentage points, were: yes—42 percent; no—56 percent; no opinion—2 percent.

The telephone poll was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday this week on a representative sample of 505 respondents.

Commentary Wonders If U.S. Can be Trusted

TA2802133892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Moderate Brutal Pressure"]

[Text] When we hear the voices emanating from over there, with President Bush declaring that he will not change his positions even if it hurts him in the elections, we shiver. What is happening? Is Israel—which up to a few months ago was called "our friend and ally"—now the United States' biggest enemy?

Many things can be said against James Baker, but not that he is a liar. When he claims that the reports that the administration has decided to intervene in the Israeli elections are "a canard," he should be believed. The formula "loan guarantees in exchange for a settlement freeze" was presented long before the elections came up. Even if there was a malicious master plan "treeing Mr. Shamir," as Leslie H. Gelb wrote in THE NEW YORK TIMES, it is not certain that it either harmed Shamir or served the Labor party. Rabin and his party, to remind anyone who has forgotten, support settlement on the Golan Heights, on part of the West Bank, in the Jordan Rift Valley, and in Greater Jerusalem. What we have here is not intervention in elections, but an outburst indicative of a callous attitude and moderate brutal force. It is not Shamir who is being treed, but the State of Israel that is being put on the spike.

One does not have to like Shamir to be enraged by this attitude toward Israel and to discern the effectiveness of that pressure: It makes the Arabs tougher in the middle of the direct talks with Israel. What Arab would permit himself to demand less than the U.S. Administration is demanding? It encourages and strengthens the extremists among us and on the other side. The thought that the United States may be abandoning Israel will reinforce the Massada Complex here and will arouse among the Arabs the hope that it may be possible to try to defeat Israel again through military means. It shatters the aura surrounding Jewish power, and Bush may find himself playing in Pat Buchanan's court in encouraging anti-Semitism in the United States. There are signs of that in the anti-Semitic letters reaching senators and the President himself in recent months. In the final analysis, it also harms Bush's sole achievement so far: the peace process itself. Not only Shamir but also Yitzhaq Rabin believes that a U.S. dictate aimed at imposing a settlement on us might achieve the opposite of what it intended.

The loan guarantees issue is the symptom, not the disease. Since the present administration took over, relations between the two countries have been suffering from a malignant disease. I would define it as a gradual change in the orientation of U.S. policy. Without the USSR and with an expanding coalition based on Arab oil interests, the current administration believes that the United States no longer needs Israel either as "the largest aircraft carrier in the world" or as "a strategic asset." The fact that Israel is a democracy means nothing whatsoever to it. Bush's United States is not a superpower that values moral rectitude; it manages very nicely—perhaps even better—with dictatorships and feudal rulers. The fact is that I do not recall that the United States conditioned the freeing of Kuwait from Iraq, for instance, which cost tens of billions of dollars, on Shaykh al-Sabah's and King Fahd's making a commitment to set up democratic governments in their countries. In return for uniting the Arab countries around Desert Storm, the United States promised Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt that it would impose a settlement on the region. The administration is now simply paying up and is positioning itself on the Arab side, with the final aim being an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders. Israel, with arrogant and childish declarations about 23,000 housing starts, is now more or less a pain in the butt of the United States of America.

The Israeli Government did not recognize in time that something has taken place in the U.S. attitude toward Israel. Bush made it clear in private talks with Shamir that what was in the past will not be in the future: that the administration will no longer be the puppet of Jewish might, that the administration will not say amen to everything Israel wants or insists on, that a situation in which the United States is the one who endows while Israel dictates the terms is not to be. We were told this in whispers, we were told in full volume, we were told with flowers, and we were told with insults. The government simply refused to get the message and did not understand that the administration itself, with Bush and Baker at the helm, is the prime mover in the change in U.S. public opinion toward Israel and in smashing Jewish clout.

Our problem with the United States is not the issue of the loan guarantees—which we may or may not need, and maybe in the end some sort of compromise will be found to get some of them; the problem is what we can expect from this administration in the future. There is room for concern here, because one cannot talk about a peace process that will go on for years and will have ups

and downs and crises (in Baker's words), while at the same time positioning oneself on the Arab side and blaming Israel from the start for its failure. One cannot leave it to the sides seemingly to talk to each other and at the same time deny Israel, through brutal force, an important negotiating card. The Israeli Government must take a good look at its relations with the United States. Where do they stand? Can it correct them, or are they on an unavoidable course, as happened in the past with France? And following that, Israel must deal with the issue of whether the United States, in the long run, can be considered its security and economic mainstay throughout the peace process and afterward. When a big power is capable of using brutal force against a small state, a true friend, on such a humanitarian issue as the absorption of refugees from the former USSR, it leaves doubts in the heart of each and every Israeli about whether we can still trust it.

Isolated Arab Enclaves Possible Autonomy Model

TA0103142592

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 1 March carries a 1,800-word article by Yosi Torpstein on page B2, entitled "Autonomy Pockets in a Sea of Security." The article is illustrated by two maps of the area from Janin in the north to south of Hebron. One map shows uninterrupted Arab population from Janin to Hebron in 1990. The second shows a smaller Arab population anticipated for 1995 in the same area; the Arab-populated centers are separated from each other by Jewish presence. The caption says: "These maps were included in the papers the Palestinian delegation submitted to the United States in anticipation of the next round of Washington talks dealing with Israel's settlement plan. The isolated Arab districts cover one-third or less of the territory."

The article states that the Civil Administration and the staff of Brigadier General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, are working on technical answers to various hypothetical questions connected to the "transfer of authority from the Civil Administration to future Palestinian self-government bodies in various spheres of life in the territories." The article notes that "in the absence of a clear general concept, the proposals include several alternative methods of action in various spheres." The article adds that the proposal papers are passed to several officials, "such as Salay Meridor, the defense minister's aide, and Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation." "Rubinstein presents them to Shamir, who in turn consults with close confidants, such as Moshe Arens, Dan Meridor, and Binyamin Netanyahu."

The article states: "Still missing is a factor that would make possible a general plan entitled 'The Desirable Autonomy Model.' None of the people tasked with formulating the alternative answers know whether the model will eventually focus on personal autonomy for residents of the territories, or on autonomy in defined geographical areas, or perhaps some other facet. An unequivocal reply to those central questions will cause significant changes in the technical details being worked on at present."

As to the question of how official Israel defines the strategic goals of autonomy, Torpstein quotes the Camp David accords to which Israel is committed, as well as Prime Minister Shamir's remarks "implying an inclination to introduce changes to the accords." He quotes Deputy Minister Netanyahu as confirming that "no decision has been made because no Israeli Government has ever held a systematic debate on the desired strategic framework of autonomy."

Torpstein states that the Washington peace talks, which are being held "without preparatory agreements on substance, in which Israel would have to reveal both the autonomy model it intends to reach and its approach on the question of central Palestinian authority, can promote an old Israeli design to preserve the existing situation with insubstantial changes—a sort of an 'Arabization of the current Civil Administration.'"

The article goes on to quote a Palestinian geographer working for the Center for Arab Research directed by Faysal al-Husayni, who "concluded, in the wake of field research, that the Israeli Government has been acting for years to create several Arab enclaves in the territories: Nabulus, Janin, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and two enclaves in the Gaza Strip." Torpstein adds that the idea of "Arab enclaves, or Palestinian cantons, has been recently heard in the prime minister's surroundings and absorbed in other circles, such as the NRP [National Religious Party], which is vehemently opposed to the Camp David-style personal autonomy."

Torpstein concludes that Israel regards "the technical transfer of civil administration to the Palestinians as the preferable possibility, as a 'first-choice plan.'" In the event that plan proves to be unfeasible, "circles close to Shamir are formulating a 'second-choice plan' based on limited and isolated Arab districts, with some degree of administrative territorial autonomy, spread over about one-third or less of the territory. That option, which is reminiscent of South African arrangements, will allow the settlements to expand freely, and that is perhaps the 'target plan:' Israeli rule over the entire Eretz Yisra'el and massive Jewish presence in the territories."

Tension With EC Over Role in Disarmament Talks

TA0103145192 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Relations between Israel and the EC have recently been marred by serious tension due to Israel's opposition to Europe's participation in the multilateral deliberations on disarmament and arms control, political sources in Jerusalem stated last night.

The issue has come up in almost every encounter between Israeli diplomats and European statesmen in the last few weeks. A high-ranking European statesman who could not conceal his anger told an Israeli ambassador: "You are even worse than our enemies."

The statesman said he could not understand why Israel would agree to the participation of countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Kuwait but object to Europe's attendance.

The decision to demand that only the countries of the region and the cosponsors of the peace process attend the arms control deliberations was made by the Defense Ministry, which is in charge of the arms control issue. The ministry does not want these talks to become some kind of international conference, and it particularly objects to the strong presence of France, whose positions are perceived as being hostile to Israel.

The Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, resents the Defense Ministry's stance and argues that Europe is one of the main arms suppliers in the region and that an agreement on arms control would have no significance if Europe is not party to it. The Foreign Ministry has grown apprehensive about the political damage that might be caused if Israel persists in this obstinate position.

Yosef Hadas, Foreign Ministry director general, explained to Secretary Baker's aide Edward Djerejian that Israel also objects to the Europeans' participation in the seminar on arms control scheduled to be held in Washington in May as part of the multilateral process. Djerejian did not subscribe to that position, and suggested that Israel seek a compromise with Europe. On the other hand, it has been learned that the United States, Russia, and the Arab countries support Europe's inclusion in the disarmament talks.

Sources in Jerusalem said that the government may ultimately be called upon to make a decision on the issue, since Israel's position might lead to a deterioration in relations with Europe and perhaps even preclude a meeting of the forum on disarmament.

The sources pointed out that, unlike with other issues to be discussed in the multilateral process, Israel should be interested in a meeting of the forum on disarmament, since it does not entail a problem with regard to the participation of representatives of the Palestinian diaspora.

A Japanese delegation is scheduled to be in Israel this weekend to survey environmental issues, in preparation for the working group that is scheduled to meet in Japan in May. The EC is also supposed to send a survey team to the region as part of the talks on regional economic cooperation.

King Husayn on Peace Process, Upcoming Tour

JN0303091392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Mar 92

["Verbatim text" of interview with King Husayn by AFP in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AFP] It seems the Arab-Israeli talks are now bogged down after they touched on substantive issues, especially the two sides' differences over interpreting UN Security Council Resolution 242. How do you think the peace process will proceed, in this case, to break the deadlock?

[Husayn] As we expected from the beginning, the peace process will take a long time and great effort to find a just and satisfactory solution that meets the legitimate rights of the Palestinians on their national soil, and deals with the basic issues that cause instability throughout the region. When these moves began, they were sudden in terms of the accelerated developments in the region and the world. From the beginning, we expected the journey to be long. However, it was imperative to participate in this effort. We are committed to every endeavor that could lead to a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem, the crux of the Middle East dispute.

Our expectations have proven to be true. If we look at other problems that caused suffering in various parts of the world, we will find that it took years to reach satisfactory solutions. However, what is encouraging is that the entire world is eager to solve problems that affect instability in all regions. This region is very sensitive. There is the multilateral track—which in my view is very important—encompassing the concerned states, in addition to the Arab states, and a number of states that are not permanent members of the Security Council—which we had wanted to sponsor this track. The path is difficult, and we are still at the beginning. On both sides, there are extremist elements which are not convinced and not eager to make any progress toward the cherished solution.

[AFP] Do you think it is time that Washington intervened directly to pressure Israel and save the process?

[Husayn] In the current dialogue with the United States, and according to the impression that I have formed, they will intervene in extremely critical and difficult situations.

[AFP] There is controversy over interpreting Resolution 242.

[Husayn] In my view, this resolution is clear. I am one of the remaining elements that contributed to its drafting and interpretation at the time. My understanding of this resolution—and this has been corroborated on various occasions and in letters and documents—is that it means withdrawing from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. It also means possible acceptance of slight changes on both sides, subject to agreement by the two sides, concerning the truce line along which the 1967 war broke out.

Jerusalem has a special place, making it the center of attention of all those who believe in God from the three divine religions. To go back now and try to interpret Resolution 242 is unjustified and unacceptable. I believe that on the Arab side, we must adhere to these interpretations. In the first place, the call for these meetings and this work for peace is based on Resolutions 242 and 338. At the same time, we repeatedly heard the principle of exchanging land for peace from the U.S. President and the U.S. Administration.

[AFP] Israel has continued to reject the principle of withdrawal in accordance with this resolution. Does Jordan support submitting the issue to the Security Council?

[Husayn] We have not achieved any results so far, or any definite method in this regard. However, we always continue to search for alternatives and means to avert a deadlock or deterioration.

[AFP] In what framework does your coming visit to the United States fall?

[Husayn] The visit was considered and its features formed a while ago. It is actually a visit to Canada. Following the end of our suffering in this part of the world, I always felt that I should visit Canada to thank the prime minister, and the Canadian Government and people, for their understanding of our position and our stand during the period which we went through, as well as their continuous support. Naturally, in Canada, I will be very close to the United States. The idea was formed that I should pay a private visit to President Bush, who also expressed the desire to meet with us to discuss the peace process, which will occupy a large part of the talks, in addition to bilateral relations and the general situation in the region. From there, I will be returning through two European capitals, Paris and Bonn. I will do my utmost to reach positive results during these visits, at least in terms of explaining our position. I will not visit Italy during this tour, but I am planning to visit Rome and the Vatican at a later stage.

[AFP] How do you evaluate Jordanian-U.S. relations after the chill that followed the Gulf war?

[Husayn] Relations passed through a hard, difficult phase. It seems that they are witnessing the beginning of a detente in various domains, which we welcome. We always believe in dialogue, which leads to defining positions and to deeper understanding of these stands.

[AFP] What do you think of Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi's proposal during the multilateral talks on developing the Gulf of 'Aqabah as a pioneering project for regional cooperation?

[Husayn] Any form of cooperation must be realized within the framework of a just and comprehensive peace

acceptable to and preservable by future generations. I believe what is going on is a search for prospects, through which it is possible to realize regional cooperation within a comprehensive peace that would change the lifestyles of all people and deal with them in accordance with their desires. Naturally, the environment, among other things, must be dealt with. I do not believe that there will be any division of issues. Nothing will be undertaken before studies have been made. Perhaps it will be useful to study the situation in a way that will give people in this part of the world a picture of the possibilities that a genuine peace in the region would offer.

[AFP] One year has passed since the Gulf war, and the inter-Arab differences continue. In your opinion, what is preventing the restoration of dialogue among these states?

[Husayn] Frankly, I do not know. In this regard, I can say that our country had expected this suffering. We did not succeed in dealing with the situation from the start. When the situation began to deteriorate just before the Iraqi action against Kuwait, and after the 2 August 1990 operation, I feared that this collapse and suffering would result and victims would fall. I did the impossible to prevent what happened and to deal with the situation on the internal, Arab level. On the Arab level, we always agreed that it was impermissible to occupy the territory of others by force. We tried to deal with the situation through politics and Arab good offices, in order to restore the situation to normal and then to deal with the causes that led to the explosion. We did not succeed, and I am sorry to say that we are now suffering from the results that we expected.

[AFP] Has there been any improvement in ties between Jordan and the Gulf states?

[Husayn] I believe that detente on the medium and long-term levels must be accomplished, because our stands are based on our desire to protect the interests of all, especially the Arab people and nation. We only did what we felt was our duty. When we review the phase that ended, and all the painful surprises, and see the bleeding wounds, we find that there is nothing to be ashamed of or apologize for. There could have been misunderstandings or misinterpretations, and certain sides could have depicted issues in the wrong way. However, this must stop and relations should be restored to normal.

[AFP] Do you plan to visit any Arab state?

[Husayn] There are no visits at this stage.

[AFP] How do you evaluate ties between Jordan and Iraq?

[Husayn] Our relations with Iraq are old. At the present phase, these relations are not restricted, given the sentiments that we all have toward the Iraqi people. As far as the other dimensions are concerned, we are committed to the UN and Security Council resolutions.

[AFP] Since the beginning of the economic crisis, successive governments have attempted to find solutions to the crisis, but with no tangible results. Do you intend to request international assistance during your coming tour, especially in view of the return of 300,000 Jordanians from the Gulf states?

[Husayn] I am optimistic that we will be able to bypass this stage, given our self-confidence; that our heads will remain high, based on our ability to bypass the tragic circumstances in the region. Circumstances must improve, and they will improve.

[AFP] There are fears that the democratic process in the country will lead to suppression of personal freedom.

[Husayn] Then it will not be a democracy, in my opinion, in terms of participation. If it means going back on our aims, this will not be acceptable. We are still at the beginning of the road which we have chosen and on which we will continue to march. I hope calm and positive dialogue will continue. Our success means presenting another model and a good example for many states. Our responsibilities go beyond the borders of Jordan. We are doing our best to make our steps sound and objective. We do not want to make mistakes which we might regret. There is a Constitution and National Charter that protect freedoms. Moreover, personal freedom in this country is protected.

Karami Alleges U.S. 'Siege' on Country

NC2802111492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has accused the United States of imposing a siege on Lebanon and depriving it of promised aid. He pointed out that the international fund for Lebanon has not materialized, the loan from the World Bank has not been received, and promises from European countries have not been kept—despite many delegations coming here to assess the situation.

Visitors to Karami today repeated his remarks that the United States wanted not only to stop its citizens from traveling to Lebanon, but to prevent them from passing through. It also put a ban on weapons for the Lebanese Army, demanding that it play a role and that government authority be imposed over all Lebanese territory.

The prime minister said: This contradiction in U.S. policy is no longer understandable, because it says one thing and does the opposite. He said rumors that targeted the banks are part of an organized campaign against Lebanon's economic and financial situation, aimed at preventing it from retrieving its status and role. They are part of a foreign plot with political aims, and could be connected to the peace process in order to tame Lebanon's stand on the talks—as if Lebanon is obstructing them and preventing positive results.

Minister Appeals for German Help on Hostages

NC2802165192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] In an interview with German television, Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin said the Cabinet's decision on the issue of the two German hostages was made within the context of Lebanon's efforts to bring this issue to a close, and to strengthen Lebanese-German relations.

Minister al-Amin addressed an ardent appeal to the German Government and people for their help in achieving an honorable solution that will end the issue of the two hostages and strengthen relations between the two countries.

He said that cooperation between the two governments will lead to a happy ending to this issue.

Responding to a question, Minister al-Amin said that there is no connection between the Lebanese Government's decision and Germany's request that the EC aid Lebanon.

Germans To Be Released 'Very Soon'

NC2702135392 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Beirut, Feb 27 (AFP) - Two German hostages seized in Lebanon almost three years ago are expected to walk free "very soon," an informed source told AFP here Thursday.

The source said the decision to free Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig was linked to the diplomatic goals of Tehran and Damascus, both of which have been instrumental in the release of other Western hostages.

"The affair of the two Germans should end very soon because Iran wants to maintain its good relations with Germany, while Syria, which always wants to improve its relations with the West, is determined to close the file," he said.

The source, who is familiar with the hostage issue, added that the two states would no longer allow the "family dimension" to take priority over their diplomatic ties and were exerting influence over the kidnappers.

The German relief workers were kidnapped on May 16, 1989 by the Mujahidin for Freedom, a group believed to be linked to the Hammadis, a Lebanese Shiite family that has two brothers jailed in Germany.

The group has demanded the release of Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, imprisoned on terrorism convictions. But Bonn has ruled out an exchange or a deal that would commute their sentences.

The latest report on the two Germans came a day after Lebanon decided to form a ministerial committee to work for their release.

During a visit here on February 17, German Defence Minister [title as received] Ludwig-Holger Pfahls said European Community assistance for Lebanon's reconstruction was being held up because of the detention of the aid workers.

Khaddam Meets With Lebanese Prime Minister

JN0103140992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at 1000 today. They reviewed the situation in the region, the latest developments in the peace talks, and efforts to enhance the national accord in Lebanon.

Damascus 'Preparing To Move' Terrorist Groups

NC2802141192 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 17 Feb 92 p 14

[By Ali Yumusak in Berlin: "Syria Prepares To Expel the PKK"]

[Excerpt] Syria is preparing to move all the terrorist organizations in the country, including the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK], outside of its borders. Replying to questions from a HURRIYET correspondent, Volker Dahlhaus, head of the State Security Department in Berlin, said: "According to the information we have received, Syria is preparing to move all the terrorist organizations and their leaders—including Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the PKK—outside of its borders."

Noting that this was the message Syria gave to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher when he officially visited Damascus recently, Dahlhaus asserted: "Syria, which has come to be known as the center of international terrorism, lost the support of the Soviet Union after that country disintegrated. It has changed its foreign policy and now seek ways of approaching Western countries, including Germany. In view of this, expelling terrorist organizations, including the PKK and Abdullah Ocalan, has become irrevocable for that country." [passage omitted]

Tunisian Prime Minister Karoui Concludes Visit

Meets al-Asad, Ba'th Official

JN2602144392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister, at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, also received Dr. Hamed Karoui, Tunisian prime minister and member of the Tunisian Democratic Destourian Party command, and his delegation today. [passage omitted]

Discussion during this meeting focused on the brotherly ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Tunisian Democratic Destourian Party and ways to improve them to serve the objectives of the two brotherly parties, their peoples, and the Arab nation. They also discussed ideas and trends which may help to bolster these ties.

In addition, they talked about current developments on the Arab and international arenas, as well as the peace process. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meeting Detailed

JN2602164792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister. [passage omitted]

Dr. Karoui conveyed greetings to the president from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and an invitation to visit Tunisia. The president accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at an appropriate time. He asked Dr. Karoui to convey his greetings to President Ben Ali and the people of fraternal Tunisia.

Discussion during the meeting focused on the current situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and developments in the Arab Maghreb.

The meeting also discussed the work of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee, as well as bilateral ties and the need to improve them for the benefit of both countries and comprehensive pan-Arab cooperation.

Meeting Termed 'Very Excellent'

JN2702161392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister, hailed the meeting he had with his excellency, President Hafiz al-Asad, describing the meeting as very excellent.

In a meeting with journalists today, he said: For over one and a half hours we listened with interest to his excellency discuss issues relating to the Middle East crisis and the issues that concern our Arab region.

He added: I conveyed to his excellency the greetings and appreciation of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and we are looking forward to a visit to Tunisia by President Hafiz al-Asad in reply to an invitation I extended in the name of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Dr. Karoui hailed the results of meetings of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee and the fraternal relations between the two sisterly states, stressing that bilateral cooperative steps contribute to fostering joint Arab action.

Karoui Confers With al-Zu'bi

JN2702102792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister, held a closed meeting at 1000 today. Talks dealt with the results of the second session of the higher joint committee. The latest developments in the Arab and international arenas were also reviewed.

A final meeting of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee was held at 1030 today under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers, and in the presence of the two countries' delegations.

Agreements Signed

JN2702154092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister, held a meeting at 1000 today. [passage omitted]

The final session of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee was held at 1030 under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers, in the presence of the two countries' delegations.

During this meeting, Prime Minister al-Zu'bi spoke about the efforts made during the meetings and the talks between the Tunisian and Syrian delegations, which were permeated by a fraternal spirit. He also said the positive results achieved in these meetings would boost cooperation and integration, which derives its momentum from the continued directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the members of the preparatory committee on both sides in drafting agreements and proposals, asserting that the road of cooperation, solidarity, and integration among Arab states is the way to achieve a unified, solid Arab stance in the face of all challenges to the Arab nation, primarily the Zionist challenge.

Dr. Karoui also spoke, renewing his thanks for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation; and expressing his deep appreciation of the important political, pan-Arab analysis he heard from President Hafiz al-Asad during his meeting with him. He also stressed the importance of the talks he held with the party leadership and the executive and legislative authorities, pointing out that cooperation and integration between Syria and Tunisia has confirmed its credibility through the concrete agreements and results achieved during the meetings of the higher joint committee.

He also thanked the members of the preparatory committee for their efforts. Moreover, he gave a briefing on the development programs adopted by Tunisia in all areas under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He asserted that Tunisia and Syria have given evidence of how Arab states can, by pursuing the course of accord and integration, face all challenges.

During this meeting, there was also a discussion of the final formula of the results of the higher joint committee's meetings. These results included the agreement of the Syrian and Tunisian sides to continue dialogue and consultation on foreign policy, and to hold periodic consultations between the foreign ministries of the two fraternal states. The results also included, in the area of trade and cooperation, within the framework of equal transactions, exchanging goods and commodities; encouraging joint investment projects in agriculture, industry, and tourism; encouraging the establishment of an international trade company by the private sector in the two countries; and encouraging cooperation between businessmen and representatives of economic establishments.

The results included, moreover, cooperation in industrial areas, such as chemicals, food, and textiles. They also covered the areas of oil, transportation, communications, education, higher education, health, culture, tourism, construction, housing, and the media.

After the conclusion of the final session, Mr. al-Zu'bi and Dr. Karoui signed the minutes of the second session of the meetings of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee. Present at the ceremony were the members of the Tunisian and Syrian delegations.

In addition, a trade protocol was signed between the two sides. The protocol was signed for the Syrian side by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, economy and foreign trade minister, and for the Tunisian side by Sadok Rabah, minister of national economy.

An executive media program for 1992-1994 was also signed. Information Minister Muhammad Salman signed the program for the Syrian side, while Dr. Fathi Houidi, secretary of state to the prime minister in charge of information, signed for the Tunisian side.

Another special agreement on agriculture was signed between the two countries. Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, signed for Syria, and Sadok Rabah, minister of national economy, signed for Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Karoui Departs

JN2702170192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Dr. Hamed Karoui, the Tunisian prime minister, left Damascus at 1600 today at the end of a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, during which he led the Tunisian delegation to the meetings of the Higher Joint Syrian-Tunisian Committee. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Kabul Jets Strafe Nangarhar Rebel Strongholds

BK0203155692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 2 (AFP)—Afghan jets pounded mojahedin-controlled areas in eastern Nangarhar Province early Monday as radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar unveiled a plan to capture Kabul, resistance sources said.

Hekmatyar, who indicated Thursday that a post-winter offensive was possible, said the resistance "would enforce a blockade of Kabul" before its attack.

Residents will be asked to stage a massive demonstration to show that President Najibullah's government is a "symbol of tyranny, starvation and bloodshed," he added.

"We do not want to harm the people," he said, adding that people have asked the mojahedin for time to force Najibollah's removal without bloodshed.

Before launching the offensive as a final option, the mojahedin will offer Army personnel an opportunity to express "repentance against their past misdeeds" by joining the resistance, he said, without specifying when.

The pro-resistance news agency MIDIA said government warplanes, resuming air strikes after a winter lull, carried out two sorties targeting the rebel stronghold Towkhar, 20 kilometers (13 miles) west of the provincial capital Jalalabad.

The jets also dropped napalm in Towkhar but caused no casualties or material damage, MIDIA said.

It also said a pounding of mojahedin positions in Nangarhar province began last week amid reports of a planned ground offensive by Kabul troops.

The bombings triggered retaliatory strikes from mojahedin who were now attacking government convoys, on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, MIDIA said.

Five government soldiers died when the guerrillas destroyed two vehicles of a military convoy near the highway town of Speen Thana last week, it added.

The operation kept the highway closed for several hours, it said, adding that the resistance attacks have forced the government to delay its offensive in the Jalalabad region.

The agency, quoting resistance commander Ismail Khan, said 27 officers and soldiers of the Afghan militia surrendered in Badghis Province after heavy fighting near the provincial capital, Qila-i- Nau, on February 24.

Earlier in the week, the mojahedin captured more than 100 militia officers and soldiers after overrunning seven government posts southwest of Qila-i-Nau, the agency said.

Hekmatyar also Monday denied his faction's involvement in a rocket attack Saturday on Kabul. Rockets are being fired by mojahedin whose bases are being bombed by government planes, he said.

"We have not asked our mojahedin to launch any rocket attack on Kabul," Hekmatyar said in a statement, a day after another important leader, Burhanuddin Rabbani, blamed the incident on the Kabul Government.

The attack on a crowded money exchange market in downtown Kabul killed 21 people and injured more than 100, according to official Afghan Radio.

Resistance sources in northwestern Peshawar, bordering Afghanistan, said the death toll had reached 31.

Najibollah Receives Defense Ministry Officials

LD2702001192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, met this morning with the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and commandants and heads of training of the army's units at the hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to a report by the BAKHTAR Military Section the meeting started with the recitation of some Koranic verses by Qari Furqani. Then esteemed Najibollah shed light on the political-military situation of the country in his speech and informed the participants about the circumstances of recent developments and the continuation of the efforts of Benon Sevan, assistant to the UN secretary general and his special envoy, with the countries of region and sides involved in the Afghan problem in respect of the acceleration of the process of political solution in the country.

On the inclinations and recent change of position by some countries involved in the Afghan problem esteemed Najibollah said: Recently we have noticed the initiation of the development of the Afghan problem's political solution and see that other countries have begun to draw the armed opposition toward acceptance of a political solution and [we see] that they initiate new political judgments about the Republic of Afghanistan.

In another section of his speech esteemed Najibollah recalled with gratitude the active participation of the Army's units in the active defense of the country and of the peaceful life of the people and in dislodging attacks and aggressions of the armed warmonger opponent groups, and, drawing the attention of the members of the army of the Republic of Afghanistan to their future duties and tasks, he said: Army units, enjoying formidable will and excellent combat preparation, have been able to abort and dislodge all plans, plots and conspiracies of the enemies of the country and have inflicted successive defeats on them, enhancing the credibility and authority of the Republic of Afghanistan at international level, and like thier fathers and ancestors, they

bravely defended the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country. This defense is the duty of you sons of the country. In another section of his speech, expressing gratitude for the work and activities of the members of the Army and the leadership of the Ministry of Defense over the current year he said: The leadership of the Ministry of Defense have discharged their duties with further efforts and military maturity. The improvement of the activities of the forces has enabled the units to carry out tactical maneuvers as a result of which areas of the country are supplied via land. We can say that the Armed Forces of the country are powerful factors in the stability of situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. They have proved to the world they water down any adventurist effort of the armed opponents. At the end of his speech, esteemed Najibollah revealed shortcomings in the work of army's members and drew the attention of officials in charge to remove the shortcomings and defects. Afterward, General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense, made a speech in which he reassured esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the country that in view of his valuable guidance, having excellent combat preparedness and formidable discipline, members of the Armed Forces are ready to dislodge any plot and conspiracy of the enemy of peace of the people of Afghanistan and bravely defend the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Najibollah Meets With State Security Officials

LD0303110192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibollah, president and supreme commander of the country's Armed Forces, received the leadership, department heads, unit commanders, and those in charge of education departments of the State Security Ministry this morning.

BIA's military section reports: At the beginning, some verses of the Koran were recited by Qari Forqani. Esteemed Najibollah then gave a comprehensive review of the political aspects of the Afghan problem and new developments in this direction. He said: The present situation in the country—that is, the people's respect for state sovereignty, their increasing hatred of extremists and extremism, their active participation in the drive to restore peace, their economic efforts to supply the country with what it needs, and the internal armed commanders' great desire to bring the war to an end—has proved the correctness of the national reconciliation policy. It has been proved that the national reconciliation policy is a sensible and realistic policy, despite the sacrifices it required. It complies with the tenets of Islam, and accords with our country's interests. It augurs well for the restoration of peace and the future development of our people and country. [passage omitted]

In another part of his speech, the esteemed president of Afghanistan said: By implementing the national reconciliation policy, the members of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, including the members of State Security Ministry and its units, have helped to enhance the Afghan republic's political standing at national and international level, and to encourage present trends in the country, that is, the previous position is being maintained and developed, and stability is being maintained.

The willingness of the people and the armed forces to resist extremist attacks proves that the military and adventurist efforts of these extremists to usurp state power will be frustrated.

Esteemed Najibollah added: The days of hardship are bound to pass. Our national heroes have earned a name for themselves by defending the wishes of the people, by representing them, and by fighting for the interests of the country. Mirwais, Ahmad Shah, Mir Masjidi Khan, Mirbacha Khan, and dozens of other Afghan heroes have been prominent in defending their country against aliens and by resisting in hard times.

At the end of the meeting, State Security Minister Gholam Faruq Yaqubi, speaking on behalf of the ministry's officials, expressed their readiness to defend, with other members of the armed forces, the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, and to carry out their duties in a self-sacrificing manner.

Najibollah Decree Frees Iranian Prisoners

LD2902222592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] At the request of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and on the basis of the national reconciliation policy and the continuation of humanitarian measures by the Republic of Afghanistan, the death sentence imposed on one Iranian citizen and the remaining prison terms imposed on four other Iranian citizens have been quashed under a decree issued by esteemed President Najibollah. Three of the five detainees were handed over to a representative of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul by Abdol Latif Azizi, head of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other two were handed over to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul. Representative of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul expressed gratitude for this [word indistinct] and humanitarian act by the Republic of Afghanistan when the persons in Qquestion were handed over to him.

Rebels Killed in Internecine Clashes

LD2602223492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Yesterday heavy armed clashes took place between members of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the Jami'at-e Eslami formation in Gozara District in Herat. The BAKHTAR Military Section reports that as a result of the clashes four people of the

warring groups were killed and seven others were injured. Another report from Herat Province says that a vehicle belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami of Yunes Khales, which was loaded with arms and ammunition, was blown up by a mine planted by a rival group in Zerekoh area and caught fire. (?Razmal), a ringleader, and eight other passengers of the vehicle were killed. A ringleader of the Wahdat [unity] faction called Malalo was killed in Chemtal District, Balkh, as a result of heavy clashes among groups of the formation. According to a BAKHTAR report, as a result of the clashes, which took place on the division of looted goods, six people from both sides were killed and a number of others were injured.

Bangladesh

Refugees Want Guarantees Before Return

BK0303013692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0115 GMT 3 Mar 92

[By Nurul Alam]

[Text] Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, March 3 (AFP)—Burmese Moslem refugee leaders say their people will not return home without international guarantees, and accuse the ruling junta in Rangoon of repeatedly breaking bilateral agreements.

"In 1974 and in 1978, when Rohingyas fled under similar circumstances, they were repatriated under bilateral agreements between Dhaka and Rangoon but we are again being persecuted," Nurul Islam, chairman and commander-in-chief of the armed Arakan Rohingya Moslem Front (ARIF), told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] here.

He said they could not go back home amid fear of persecution and that this time repatriation could only begin after the creation of a permanent settlement.

Officially, more than 80,000 Moslem refugees, known as Rohingyas, have crossed into Bangladesh, citing widespread oppression and atrocities by Burmese troops since last March. Private agencies and refugees say the number has passed 100,000.

Between 500 and 1,000 refugees are crossing the border into Bangladesh daily, officials say.

Most of the refugees are sheltered between Cox's Bazar and the southeastern fishing town of Teknaf, but several hundred are camped out in the Bandarban hill district.

The Bangladesh Government has already appealed for international aid for the Rohingyas and has launched an international campaign to help repatriate them, while Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to brief President George Bush on the problem during a state visit to the United States this month.

Mohammad Yunus, president of the rival Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), expressed similar concerns, saying "only an international agreement can secure full security and fundamental rights for the ethnic Rohingyas.

"Without it we will refuse to go back," he warned.

Burma has told Bangladesh to prepare a list of those to be repatriated but added that it would only accept "genuine" refugees—a demand seen here as a warning that it would accept only those with Burmese identification cards.

Refugee registration officers here, however, said most of the refugees told them their cards had either been lost or—more often—taken away by Burmese troops as they left the country.

In the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka, an official source close to the negotiations said Rangoytold Dhaka last week that most of the refugees were illegal immigrants and not Burmese nationals.

"During talks with Burma two days ago they said the refugees were illegal immigrants and only a handful were their nationals," the official said, adding that the situation "looked bad."

Complicating the situation is a severing of links between ARIF and the RSO over an undisclosed policy agreement.

But Islam, the ARIF chairman, rejected Rangoon's claims that his people were illegal immigrants into Burma.

"Rohingya people should be recognised in unequivocal terms by the Constitution of the state as one of the indigenous groups of a multi-national and multi-cultural Union of Burma," Islam said.

Such a union should guarantee that all ethnic groups, now treated as "guests," have the same rights and freedoms as other Burmese within a "genuine fedralist system, without which the Rohingya problem would take place repeatedly," he added.

In Dhecua Palang refugee camp here, 55-year-old Asia Khatun gave a reply typical among those refugees interviewed.

"I will not go back if the repatriation is not permanent because this is the second time since 1978 I have been forced out of my home," she said.

Ask for Pressure on Burmese Military

BK0203162092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Leaders of the Rohingya Muslim refugees in Cox's Bazar made a passionate appeal today to Bangladesh Government and the international community,

including the United Nations, to compel Myanmar military junta to immediately stop mass expulsion of Rohingya Muslims from their ancestral homes in Arakan. They also called upon the international community to condemn and boycott Myanmar military government for gross violation of human rights by perpetrating atrocities on innocent Muslims in Myanmar.

The Buddhist monks in Arakan have been continuing their movement against the Myanmar military junta, despite arrests and torture. The president of Burmese [word indistinct] Monks Union told [the Bangladesh news agency] BSS at Cox's Bazar that monks have joined the anti-junta movement in order to restore basic rights of the people. He said the monks will continue their movement along with the people to oust the military junta from power.

India

Delhi Not To Sign Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact

BK0303035092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that India will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In an interview to a news magazine, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the treaty is discriminatory as it does not provide for global nuclear disarmament. He said New Delhi is firm in its resolve not to make nuclear weapons.

On the question of Pakistan's support to militants in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, the prime minister said it continues to be a hindrance in improving the relations between the two neighbors. He expressed the hope that Islamabad will come to reality and work toward creating a better climate.

Rao Denies Economic Reforms Imposed by World Bank

BK0203145692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao has refuted charges that the economic liberalization measures being implemented in the country are under dictates from the World Bank. In an interview to a fortnightly in the capital, he said these reforms are aimed to get over the difficult balance of payments position as an immediate measure and to gradually build up the competitiveness of the Indian industry, especially in the international sphere.

Mr. Rao said the economic reforms are a logical consequence of the path adopted in the 1950s and of the progress achieved during the last four decades. He categorically stated that government will cherish and pursue the declared goal such as the structure of the mixed economy, the role of the public sector, promotion of khadi and village industries, including the small scale sector, and uplift of the poor and weaker sections of the society. On the question of withdrawal of some subsidies, Mr. Narasimha Rao said over the years the system of subsidy has led to inflationary pressures and now reached a point where the economy could no longer withstand the burden. The prime minister said every section of our society has the responsibility to contribute for rebuilding the ailing national economy.

About the revamping of public distribution system, Mr. Rao said the aim now is to ensure that the poor and needy are cushioned against inflationary pressures. On price rise, Mr. Narasimha Rao claimed that there has been a downward trend and said this is because of the strict fiscal discipline and tight monetary policy adopted by the government since it came to power. In reply to a question on delicensing measures, Mr. Rao said the new industrial policy has reposed faith in the non-resident Indians to consider large-scale investments in the Indian economy.

On the question of Pakistan's support to militants in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Mr. Rao said it continues to be a hindrance to improve the relations between the two neighbors. He expressed the hope that Islamabad will come to reality and work toward creating a better climate.

Budget Proposals on Tax Structure Analyzed

BK0203044192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Commentary by THE HINDUSTAN TIMES Correspondent Nitya Chakraborty: "Chelliah Committee Report and the Budget"]

[Text] The 1992-93 budget has drawn heavily on the recommendations made by the tax reforms committee headed by Dr. Raja Chelliah in its interim report presented in December last year. The budget proposals in respect of tax rates, as also tax structural rationalization, are based on the recommendations. For instance, the Chelliah committee had recommended that to make the direct taxes more effective, the income tax regime should have lower rates of taxation with the narrow spread between the entry rates and the maximum marginal rates and the minimum of tax incentives. On these lines, the budget has enhanced the exemption limit for income tax from 22,000 rupees a year to 28,000 rupees. The committee proposed 20 percent for total income from above 28,000 to 50,000 rupees, and this has been accepted. For incomes ranging between 50,000 and 200,000 rupees, the Chelliah committee proposed a rate of 27.5 percent, but the finance minister in his budget proposals has modified it and kept the tax rate at 30 percent [for income] between 50,000 and 100,000 rupees. Above 100,000 [rupees] income, only a tax rate of 40 percent has been announced, while the Chelliah committee wanted 40 percent tax rate only after an income of 200,000 rupees. The Chelliah committee suggested a presumptive tax scheme under which traders, manufacturers deriving income from business should be allowed

to pay tax in a lump sum of 1,000 rupees a year without filing any return if their turnover in the business happens to be between 300,000 and 500,000 rupees. The budget has introduced this proposal with some modifications. This will cover the shopkeepers and traders with an annual trade turnover below 500,000 rupees and they will have to pay 1,400 rupees as tax a year. The scheme is being introduced on an optional basis and is intended only for those who may have taxable income and wish to avail of this simplified procedure.

Similarly, the decisions on wealth tax and long-term capital gains tax have been taken in the budget on the basis of recommendations made by the Chelliah committee. The committee proposed a new scheme of wealth tax based on an annual tax on the aggregate capital value in excess of the specified exemption level. The budget has, accordingly, proposed to lower the wealth tax rate to 1 percent with a basic exemption of 1,500,000 rupees, the intention being to tax nonproductive assets, such as residential houses, including farmhouses, urban land, jewelry, motorcars etcetera. As regard capital gains tax, the budget proposals on the lines of the Chelliah committee have introduced a system that taxable capital gains will be computed by allowing the cost of the assets to be adjusted for general inflation before deducting from the sale of the proceeds. The long-term capital gains thus computed will be taxed at 20 percent.

Former Legislator Kidnapped; 2 Killed in Kashmir

BK0203162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a former member of the state legislative council, Mr. Habibullah Bhat, was kidnapped from his house in Watapura-Bandipura yesterday evening. Police have launched a search operation.

Meanwhile, in Kashmir Valley two persons were killed in militancy-related incidents during the last 24 hours. The security forces arrested 17 subversives during search operations at various places. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

Seventy two Pakistan-trained militants have surrendered during the last two months in the state. An official spokesman told in Srinagar today that these militants have surrendered because of continuing pressure by the security forces and the assurance given by the state government on better rehabilitation measures for them.

Iran

'Violent Clashes' Reported at Tehran University

LD0203192892 Hamburg DPA in German 1536 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Cologne (DPA)—According to the opposition People's Mojahedin, several thousand students today demonstrated for the release of imprisoned fellow students, and against the impending closure of the university in the Iranian capital of Tehran. Violent clashes with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were announced by the German office of the Mojahedin in Cologne. A large number of students have been injured. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has also detained numerous demonstrators.

The Mojahedin say that the authorities have had the university occupied because there have been sit-in strikes against the government there for a month. Numerous students were detained on Sunday during a demonstration.

Hizballah Leader Stresses 'Armed Jihad'

LD0303060692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid Ahmad Khomeyni, in a meeting today with Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, and the family of martyr Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi, the secretary general of the movement, described the latter's martydom as a source of strength to the Palestinian and Lebanese people in their sacred jihad against the occupying Zionist regime.

Adding that the only way to save Muslims under the Zionist regime's oppression is through armed jihad, he said: Today, the path of Lebanon's Hizballah and Palestine's intifadah is considered the best and most effective model for struggle against the usurper Zionist regime.

Vows To Destroy 'Great Satan'

LD0303060992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Qods unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps held a memorial service for the martyred combative scholar Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, with the joint staff of the corps today.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, the new secretary general of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah; several members of Lebanon's Hizballah Council; the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria; Major General Vahidi, commander of the Qods unit; and a number of the guards. The secretary general of the movement, in a speech, thanked the officials and the people of Iran for their sympathy, and termed the martyrdom of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi a cause of great spiritual development in Lebanon.

He said: This issue has highly boosted the morale of the Lebanese warriors, and has made them more determined to confront the Zionist enemy.

He went on: We will always remain sincere soldiers of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, our leader and lord [Mowla]. To us the United States is always the great Satan, for whose destruction we will strive.

Also during this ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, the representative of the guardian of the cause [vali-ye faqih] in the Qods unit, made a speech on the personality and virtues of the martyr, Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Greece's Prime Minister Mitsotakis Visits Tehran

Views 'Excellent' Ties

LD2902185192 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis Saturday described Athens-Tehran ties as "excellent" and said Iran was playing a significant role in the region.

Speaking to reporters on his flight from Athens to Tehran, Mitsotakis said, "Iran is a very important country, especially during this period. Its role in the wider region has been upgraded."

The Greek premier began a 2-day official visit to Tehran on Saturday accompanied by a large delegation of government officials, businessmen and journalists.

The first visit of a Greek premier to the Islamic Republic of Iran is considered highly significant for strengthening of bilateral ties between the two states.

Mitsotakis said he will hold political and economic talks with the Iranian officials.

"Political talks would be very significant, because identical views on political issues and cooperation between the two countries will open the door for economic cooperation," he said.

According to the Greek premier the two sides will discuss wide-ranging issues such as the situation in the Middle East, developments in the Balkans, the Cyprus problem and other matters of mutual interest.

Mitsotakis said Greece would respond positively to Iran's desire to expand economic ties.

"The Iranian side is open, as we are open, for any ideas for cooperation. I will use this opportunity to further expand our relations," he said.

He referred to "some pending issues since years" and hoped that they would be resolved soon.

"The problems are not severe. The pending issues of the past are one side of the problems, the possibilities for the future, which are more important, are the other side," Mitsotakis told journalists on the special Boeing 727 flight of Olympic Airways to Tehran.

On his way back from Tehran, Mitsotakis will stop briefly in Larnaca to discuss the latest developments with Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou.

"There is a sudden change of position by Turkey and Rauf Denktas... Position which overturns all conditions of dialogue", he said, adding Greece's "regret and disappointment for this change."

Speaking to IRNA correspondent on the plane, Greek Government Spokesman Viron Polidhoras said, "We want the best relations with Iran, and the bilateral ties must be promoted."

Mitsotakis will hold talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Vice President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Housing Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni.

The Greek prime minister will visit the shrine of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and is also scheduled to visit the southern city of Shiraz and the nearby ruins of the Achaemenid capital, Persepolis, to which Greek city states once paid homage, and which was put to the torch by the Macedonian conqueror Alexander (323 B.C.) during one of his drinking bouts.

Spokesman on Goals of Visit

NC2902141192 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1230 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis is currently on a particularly important visit to Iran, from a political and economic viewpoint. The prime minister is having talks with the Iranian leadership to develop bilateral relations.

As Viron Polidhoras, government spokesman, stated yesterday, the goal of the visit is to further upgrade Greek-Iranian relations in view of Iran's current role in that sensitive area, as well as to further develop economic relations between the two countries.

The prime minister left this morning for Tehran accompanied by Viron Polidhoras, deputy minister to the prime minister and government spokesman, and Deputy Minister of National Economy Aristidhis Tsiplakos. The Greek Businessmen Association of the public and private sector is also participating in the mission.

Let us note that Mitsotakis' two-day visit to Tehran is the first visit of a Greek prime minister to Iran.

Mitsotakis Arrives in Tehran

LD2902113292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis arrived in Tehran at 1200 today at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation, at the official invitation of First Vice President Hasan Habibi.

Expressing pleasure over his trip to Iran in an interview with our correspondent, he said: We will hold talks with Iranian officials on current regional and international issues.

Mr. Habibi referred to Iranian-Greek relations as long-standing, and expressed his hope that relations will expand in various fields.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2902232592 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—The Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis today announced the European Community's readiness for cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also voiced the interest of his government and people to have expanded ties with Iran in all political, economic and cultural areas.

Mitsotakis, who arrived here today, made the remarks at a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that, under the new world circumstances, Iran's policy was for promotion of cooperation with the EC. Similarly, he said, "we have had good cooperation with Greece and are ready to expand them as long as the potentials of the two countries allow."

The Greek premier told the Iranian president that his country attached strategic importance to Iran and appreciated its "principled stance" on the Balkan region. "We are also ready for promotion of economic ties, particularly in the area of oil, with Iran."

The Greek premier also called for settlement of financial issues between his country and Iran, dating back to the former regime which was toppled in 1979 after the culmination of the Islamic revolution.

Stressing that the two countries shared cultural heritages, Mitsotakis said Athens attached great significance to cultural cooperation with Tehran.

He said his government had recently devoted a land for construction of a big mosque for Muslims "and this show the great respect we have for cooperation." He said Greece was the only European country being closer to Iran geographically and historically.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said there were good grounds for mutual cooperation between Iran and Greece in political, economic and cultural spheres. He also welcomed expansion of mutual ties in all areas demanded by the two sides.

He also expressed satisfaction with the Greek Government's decision to allow construction of a mosque in that country, saying that cultural cooperation between the two countries would complement mutual economic cooperation.

Iran's vice-president, foreign minister, and housing minister as well as other officials from both sides attended the meeting.

Habibi Hosts Banquet

LD2902235392 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi today said peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region would be maintained only with the cooperation of the regional countries and in the absence of foreign powers.

He also urged the United Nations to work actively for the full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 for the cause of peace and security in the region.

Habibi made the remarks at a banquet he gave in honor of the visiting Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis who arrived here at the head of a delegation on a two-day official visit.

UN Resolution 598 put an end to eight years of a bloody war between neighboring Iran and Iraq in August 1988. Among other things, the resolution calls for the punishment of the aggressor party.

The former UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar has openly declared Iraq as the party responsibile for starting the war which took the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and inflicted huge financial damages. Tehran has demanded war reparations from Iraq, amounting to millions of dollars.

Mitsotakis said at the reception that after the Persian Gulf crisis it was possible to resolve the other problems of the region on the basis of international law and respect for the decisions of the UN Security Council. He also called for the implementation of Resolution 598.

On the question of Palestine, Habibi rejected as "one-sided, unjust and repetitive" certain plans being raised to resolve the issue. He said the establishment of justice and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to decide their political and historical fate would be the only solution to the crisis. He also condemned the recent massacre of the Palestinians by the Zionist regime.

Elsewhere he said Iran and Europe can establish "confident and lasting ties" with each other, adding that Tehran-Athens constructive cooperation can serve as a good example to this end.

The Greek prime minister underlined the necessity of cooperation between Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran for the sake of security and peace in the region.

Pointing to dramatic changes in the region, Mitsotakis said "our two nations are called upon for closer cooperation for the protection of stability and peace."

"Members of the international community which are bound by deep historical ties, like Greece and Iran, are indebted to join their forces for maintaining the principles of international law and to promote cooperation between nations."

The Greek premier called for a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of UN resolutions.

Noting the traditional friendly ties between the two peoples of Greece and Iran, Mitsotakis expressed optimism over the expansion and strengthening of ties between Athens and Tehran.

Mitsotakis, Velayati Confer

LD0103221792 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—The visiting Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met here Sunday morning and discussed promotion of bilateral economic, political and cultural ties.

The two sides referred to the deep and traditional ties between Iran and Greece and called for further contacts between the two countries.

Mitsotakis, the first Greek prime minsiter to visit the Islamic Republic, arrived here Saturday afternoon at the head of a top-ranking delegation on a two-day official visit at the invitation of First Vice-President Hasan Habibi.

Velayati, who returned home Friday night from a peace mission to Azerbaijan and Armenia to mediate over the Karabakh issue, briefed Mitsotakis on the mediation efforts of the Islamic Republic aimed at establishment of peace and stability in the region. He added that the common background between Iran and the two Central Asian republics prompted the two republics to welcome the Iranian initiative.

Turning to the recent summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] held in Tehran last month, Velayati said that the main objective of the organization is to pave the way for a constructive economic cooperation among the member states. He reiterated that ECO does not stand against interests of any country or any group. ECO aims at peace and economic prosperity, he added.

On Middle East, he said that the aggressive policies of the Zionist regime has further complicated the situation making it impossible to pin hope on the future. He stressed the need for exerting further pressure on the Zionist regime.

The Greek minister welcomed Iran's initiatives adding that Athens closely follows the regional developments.

"The friendly and good relations of Iran and the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union must be continued, a fact which we consider to be in the interest of all."

He briefed Velayati on the situation in the Balkans and Cyprus and said that tension and blood sheding must be avoided in this region.

Mitsotakis further underlined the need for expansion of ties between the Islamic Republic and the European Community adding that Athens is ready to cooperate in this regard.

Mitsotakis has also held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his host Habibi. Before winding up his trip, he is to tour the ancient city of Shiraz, capital of Fars Province.

Second Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC0103134592 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1230 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis concluded his official visit to Iran with a second meeting with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran. The prime minister also met with the Iranian foreign minister and the Iranian housing and urban development minister, with whom he discussed bilateral issues.

Mitsotakis will leave Tehran this afternoon and stop over in Larnaca for talks with President Yeoryios Vasiliou on the latest developments in the Cyprus issue.

Talks on further cooperation in the economic and trade sectors also concluded, with discussion of the possibility of Iran participating in the work of the Alumina plant in Greece. Deputy National Economy Minister Aristidhis Tsiplakos and his Iranian counterpart exchanged views on Iran possibly contributing to Alumina's share capital. [passage omitted]

Communique Issued; Mitsotakis Departs

LD0103222792 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—In a joint communique issued here Sunday Iran and Greece agreed to broaden their cooperation on oil, gas, infrastrucutural projects, aluminum industries, shipping and ship building, and tourism.

The communique issued upon departure from Tehran of the Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and a Greek delegation voiced identical viewpoints between Iran and Greece on major world issues including the situation in occupied Palestine, the developments in the republics of the former Soviet Union, and the regional issues.

Iran and Greece also commissioned one ranking official of each country to review suspending economic agreements between them and offer a proposal for salvaging those agreements.

The two countries also agreed to uphold a memorandum of understanding signed by Iran-Greece Joint Economic Commission in 1990.

The communique said that the visit to Tehran by the Greek official "marks a climax in the good relations between the two countries" and added that the relations between the two countries have been constantly improving.

The Greek delegation, according to the communique, "voiced pleasure with current initiatives by the Islamic Republic of Iran within the context of regional peace and stability, and considered it an effective stride for guaranteeing peace and stability in the region."

The two sides considered also the situation in the former Soviet Union and emphasized on the need for increased cooperation of other countries in the reconstruction efforts of the independent republics.

The Greek Prime Minister who arrived in Tehran in response to an official invitation on 29th Feb. Had meetings with the Iranian president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Vice-President Hasan Habibi.

During his visit to Tehran he also visited the Imam Khomeyni's holy shrine at Behesht-e-Zahra, south of Tehran and paid tribute to him.

Mitsotakis left Tehran for Athens Via Shiraz, Fars Province today.

Further on Communique

NC0203073292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Greece considers the recent initiatives by the Islamic Republic of Iran an effective step toward ensuring peace and stability in the Persian Gulf. According to a joint communique Iran and Greece issued yesterday, before the Greek delegation departed, the two sides stressed the need to expand regional cooperation in order to ensure security and stability in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf.

In the communique, the Greek delegation expressed satisfaction with Iran's recent initiatives to achieve peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region, and described them as an effective step toward further consolidating peace and stability in the region.

The two countries also expressed support for the recent report by the UN secretary general, and emphasized the need for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

In their joint communique, Iran and Greece expressed satisfaction with the existing level of bilateral relations, and emphasized the need to increase cooperation and expand these contacts in order to achieve closer relations.

In the communique, the two sides agreed to expand their economic cooperation, especially in oil, gas, shipping, ship-building industries, aluminum industries, infrastructural projects, and tourism. Tehran and Athens also decided to expand facilities to increase the volume of trade and of non-oil exports.

The two sides also stressed the need to follow up the contents of the memoranda of understanding exchanged between the two countries during the past year and a half. They also commissioned two officials to put forth their joint and practical proposals to the two governments, within a logical timeframe, for solving pending economic problems.

The two sides referred to the favorable and improving process of relations and described constructive cooperation as a favorable framework for the expansion of the Iran's relations with the EC.

Expressing their views on Middle East problems and the way the Palestinian problem should be solved, Iran and Greece pointed out that the indubitable rights of the Palestinians should be established and that the crisis should be justly solved. They also expressed their concern over the deadlock that has been created for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

According to the joint communique, the two sides carefully assessed developments in the former Soviet Union and noted the need for as much cooperation as possible from other countries in accelerating the reconstruction of the independent countries and in elevating their living standards as a step toward the preservation of world peace and security.

The two countries pointed out the need for solving the Cyprus problem and expressed support for the continued efforts of the UN secretary general's special envoy for a peaceful solution of the problem, for the establishment of peace, and for ensuring the rights of the communities on the island.

The communique referred to the recent developments in the Balkans and emphasized the need for an immediate solution of problems and the establishment of peace and stability in this area.

Nepal & Bhutan

Controversy Over Hydroelectric Project With India

Opposition Walkout Protests Deal

BK2302163592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 23 (AFP)—Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) and

other opposition members walked out of of the House of Representatives on Sunday to protest a controversial hydroelectric and irrigation project.

They said the government should not have concluded with India negotiations on the construction of the project at Tanakpur, 390 kilometres (242 miles) southwest of here, without the house's formal approval.

The legislators walked out after asking house Speaker Daman Dhungan to permit an immediate debate on the agreement with India and the government proceeded to try tabling a bill on salaries and pensions for judges.

NCP-UML leader Mana Mohan Adhikari alleged that the government was grossly neglecting the national interest while negotiating with India on Nepal's vast water resources.

They said the Tanakpur project would occupy Nepalese territory without a formal treaty and went on to demand that copies of the negotiations with New Delhi be tabled within 24 hours and that construction be halted until the House has passed the project.

Dhungana, a member of the ruling Congress Party, attempted to placate the opposition members but made no ruling, triggering the walkout.

The session was adjourned until noon Monday.

Communists Disrupt Parliament 28 Feb

BK2802153692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 28 (AFP)—Nepal's communist opposition disrupted Parliament Friday for more than seven hours to protest an agreement with India on sharing power and water from a hydroelectric project.

Opposition members led by the Nepali Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) shouted anti-government slogans to prevent Minister of State for Water Resources Laxman Ghimire from introducing documents related to the Tanakpur hydropower and irrigation project.

During a visit to New Delhi in December, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala finalised a deal with India under which Nepal will receive power and irrigation water from a dam at Tanakpur, 400 kilometres (240 miles) southwest of here, which relies on water from Nepalese rivers.

Opposition lawmakers have charged that the deal is unfair and should be renegotiated.

Koirala Denies 'Secret Deals'

BK2902112092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 29 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told AFP Saturday after an opposition protest in parliament that he had not finalised with India any secret deals over water or hydroelectric power.

"No agreement or treaties were signed during my visit to New Delhi in the first week of December," Koirala said.

"We have only reached an understanding with India on the water resources issue, and particularly on the 120-megawatt potential Tanakpur hydropower and irrigation project," the prime minister said.

"If any such treaties or agreements were signed at all there would be no question of hiding the matter from the public."

Parliament was disrupted for about eight hours late into Friday night by opposition members who accused Koirala of bypassing parliament to cut deals with India.

The protest ended when the house speaker adjourned the session until Sunday afternoon.

Koirala's ruling Nepali Congress has 110 members in the 205-seat parliament and enjoys the support of the pro-Indian Nepal Sadbhavana Party (Nepal Goodwill Party), a Congress spokesman said, adding that his formation's position in parliament was "strong and firm."

But opposition argue that the arrangement with India is unfair and should be renegotiated.

"The prime minister was not supposed to reach any understanding or agreement with India without the mandate of the parliament as the Nepalese constitution specifies that no exploration or construction of any water-related project be done without a two-thirds majority mandate of the House," opposition member Hiranya Lal Shrestha said.

Water Resources Minister on Project

BK0203080492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] India is to provide Nepal 10 million units of free electricity and 150 cusecs of water from Tanakpur barrage to irrigate up to 500 hectares of land. Giving this information in the lower house of parliament in Kathmandu, the minister of state for water resources, Mr. Ghimire, said that embankments on the barrage will check erosion and downstream flooding of the Nepalese territory. He refuted the opposition allegation that the Nepalese government has compromised the territorial integrity of the country on the Tanakpur barrage. He said that Nepal stands to benefit from the understanding reached with India on Tanakpur barrage. The minister laid on the table of the house of parliament copies of the

treaties, agreements, and understanding reached with India during the visit of the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, to New Delhi.

Pakistan

Kazakhstan To Cooperate in Nuclear Technology

BK2902095992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Feb 92 p 1

[By Munir Ahmed]

[Text] Lahore—Kazakhstan, a new Muslim state of Central Asia, is ready to cooperate with Pakistan in the field of nuclear technology as it is convinced that Islamabad's nuclear programme was peaceful and aimed at overcoming energy crisis.

This was disclosed by Mian Abdul Wahid, MNA [member of National Assembly] and former ambassador to West Germany, during a chat with THE FRONTIER POST on Thursday [27 February]. Mian Abdul Wahid along with other nine highranking officials and politicians, recently visited Kazakhstan and signed various agreements with it.

To a question, he said that Kazakhstan's population was over 17 million and its area was more than that of India. Half of the population of Kazakhstan was Muslim and almost all politicans were keen to improve bilateral trade ties with Pakistan.

Mian Abdul Wahid said that Pakistan has opened its embassy in Kazakhstan and Khalid Khattak has been appointed as consul general there. Only two other countries, Iran and America—has so far opened embassies in Kazakhstan.

He maintained that the government of Kazakhstan wanted to destroy all nuclear devices. At present Kazakhstan has more than 100 atomic bombs and other weapons.

Abdul Wahid claimed that Kazakhstan was ready to extend all possible co-operation to Pakistan in the field of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

In response to another question, he said tht Kazakhstan Government was currently engaged in strengthening efforts to ensure the formation of former USSR's newly independent states. He said that Kazakhstan was rich in natural resources and needed Islamabad's cooperation in establishment of consumer goods industry.

Mian Abdul Wahid said that Kazakhstan had so far signed agreements with Pakistan in the fields of science and technology, trade, culture and sports. A cultural delegation from Kazakhstan would soon visit Pakistan and vice versa.

U.S. Aid Halt Forces Suspension of 28 Projects

BK0303035792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Mar 92 p 1

[by Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, March 1—The complete suspension of the US economic assistance to Pakistan has forced the government to either phase out or wind up more than 28 projects and programmes in the vital social sector. The US had earlier promised 1084 million dollars [figure as published] for these projects over nine years beginning from 1991.

The US government was providing economic assistance to Pakistan under a six-year old package. The aid package, was considered as the largest awarded by US after Israel and Egypt.

The $1.6 billion programme of economic assistance for 1982-87, which began shortly after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, emphasised project aid and balance of payments support. This emphasis has been maintained during the current six years, from 1988 through 1993. In the package of 2.28 billion dollars the annual level of assistance was $380 million. All of the economic assistance was on grant basis except for PL 480 loan of 480 million dollars.

In the US fiscal year Washington had earmarked $340 million in economic assistance to Pakistan subject the congressional approval. However, due to non-certification by the US President as required under the Pressler Amendment the aid for the year 1991 and onwards was suspended.

The US stated economic assistance to Pakistan in 1952. It was suspended twice—in 1977-78 and 1979-80—on the nuclear issue. However, food aid under PL 480 continued uninterrupted on both the occasions. But the current suspension also includes assistance under PL 480 which had been a major means to general local funds to be used for development purposes. Pakistan expected to generate rupee resources equivalent to 516 million from this head which will now not be available.

The country has also been deprived of the USAID from which it was financing imports of wheat fertilizer and soyabean oil. The funds provided by USAID from the year 1982 onwards amounted to 1008.7 million dollars, out of which $299.0 million were for importing wheat while a sum of $549 million was given for the import of soyabean oil.

Commenting on the situation an official source said that the US administration has exercised its negative determination with the result that the amount of 340 million dollars earmarked for Pakistan for the current fiscal year has already been reallocated to other countries. In order to minimise waste and loss of effectiveness of assistance already received. All on-going projects will be orderly

phased out or wound up by December 1994. A list of the projects affected by the suspension of US assistance has already been prepared.

Conflict Between President, Premier Denied

BK2802160292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the prime minister's special assistant and federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, has said there is complete harmony between the viewpoints of the president and the prime minister on all national issues. In an interview with PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, he said the opposition has been unsuccessful in creating differences between the two leaders by adopting undemocratic methods. He added that Mohammad Nawaz Sharif wants to move along with the opposition and desires a consensus on all national issues in order to solve the domestic and international problems now facing the country.

The minister expressed regrets that the opposition has adopted a totally negative attitude. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan said opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's statement that the government has closed all doors for an understanding between the government and the opposition is not based on facts. He said the opposition wants to solve problems on the streets, while all the sensible people of Pakistan have totally rejected the policy of agitation.

Political Divisions Seen Weakening Ruling Party

BK0303114192 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 1 Mar 92 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Storm Clouds Hover Over Nawaz Sharif Govt"]

[Text] Lahore—The storm clouds are once again gathering over Mian Nawaz Sharif's government, with both allies and enemies coverging on a common goal, but the fragmentation on the many forces gunning for him give him his best chance of survival. His talks with Jammat-e-Islami Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmed on Saturday made a quantum jump when they turned onto the lines of discussing modalities of the breakup of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], which would weaken him considerably.

Now ending the 16th month of his tenure, Mian Nawaz's image is showing the wear and tear inevitable for a sitting Prime Minister presiding over a difficult economic situation and a confusing international environment. Though he has disappointed an important constituency, the religious right, the old foes at the other end of the spectrum have yet to work out a coherent strategy for his removal.

Meanwhile, within his own party, the PML [Pakistan Muslim League], there has been an increase in talk, but not much done practically to work for a replacement. Main Nawaz presides over a coalition that is at best unwieldy if not outright unnatural, and the failure of the government to do anything dramatic about the country's situation has caused discontent.

While the All-Parties Conference mass contact campaign drew an encouraging response, the other party heads of the IJI are apparently working for Mian Nawaz's removal from the post of President. According to the Jamaat-e-Islami, his tenure has already expired and he no longer holds the post.

His talks on Saturday with Qazi Hussain must have been a bit of a shock. For the Jamaat itself pushed into a corner, may have to make its exit. The only reason the Jamaat has not broken openly is because of the lack of pressure to do so immediately, and it appears only a matter of time, unless the PM makes major concessions.

Confabulation between Jamaat chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed and JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] (S) president Senator Samiul Haqseem inclined to summoning a meeting of the IJI heads, where a showdown would be staged, perhaps expelling the PML from the IJI. If the IJI cannot be saved, perhaps Mian Nawaz would prefer an amicable divorce which would not preclude any future election alliance.

NPP [Natown Pedler's Party] chief and former caretaker PM Mustafa Jatoi's sudden emergence into the bluntest oppositon he has ever indulged in, has a strong whiff of wounded ego. It was noticeable that the Jatois were not prominent in the consultations that took place as a result of the illness of Sindh Chief Minister Jam sadiq Ali. The situation was not helped by the comments of Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne on Jatoi's local body rigging charges.

Another reason why Jatoi is so active might be the need to be in position to take advantage of an internal PML move. The problem there has been that while Mohammad Khan Junejo is nothing loth to reoccpying the Prime minister's office, he also has no intention of being used as a tool for replacing Mian Nawaz with Jatoi. Further, he has bailed out Mian Nawaz whenever it has appeared that the PML's government is at stake, and has never exploited Mian Nawaz's weaknesses whenever party unity was in danger.

However, Syed Ali Akbar Mohammad's sacking as CM's [Chief Minister] Adviser essentially increased Junejo group discontent, though on the surface the damage has been contained. Intraparty heartburning because of alleged interface in the local body polls chairmanships also strengthens Junejo's hand. Significantly, Jatoi has chosen that issue because it strikes the strongest there with the sentiments of the IJI Parliamentary Party.

The possible parting of ways of the PML from the IJI, or its breakup, if indeed either comes to pass would suit Junejo, for then as party President, he would have a stronger claim to the Prime Ministership than he does now. There are two obstacles in his path: there is yet no

clear signal that he as a replacement of Mian Nawaz would be more acceptable than Jatoi to the powers that be and he will not find it as easy imposing his will on the Punjab members as Mian Nawaz does:

Mian Nawaz's problems are manifold, with too many things going against him at the same time, with little good news emerging. The confusion over the Afghan and Kashmir policies has alienated the hard copyright without yielding any benefit a change might have brought. There is little appreciation for the nuclear stand, or sympathy for the ensuing economic difficulties. Sindh has become even more intractable after the Jam's illness, with the uncertainty there provoking rumbling from even the MQM [Mjhajir Qaumi Movement], previously one of the most consistent supporters of Mian Nawaz.

'Apologetic Attitude' on Nuclear Policy Criticized

BK0303032592 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 2 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Qazi Hussain Ahmad, amir Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] has lashed out at IJI government's apologetic attitude on nuclear capability and warned that his party would never allow anybody to strike a compromise on the matter.

Addressing a rally arranged by JI's Passban wing in the course of its "Down With America" campaign, on Sunday, he said that a top official had conceded to the United States "our resolve on achieving nuclear capability". He said that IJI's formation was based on such points as continuation of atomic programme assisting the Kashmir and Afghan Mojahidin and enforcement of Islamic system.

Criticising the prime minister's stance to let Kashmir become a separate state. Qazi said that there was no provision for an independent state of Kashmir in the UN resolsution. Nawaz Sharit, he alleged was in hatching a conspiracy at the behest of American government but "we will frustrate such moves."

IJI, he argued, had started working against its basic principles by giving up its insistence on an Islamic system, showing un-Islamic programmes on electronic media, conspiring against Pakistan's nuclear policy and acceding to the UN plan on Afghanistan.

He asserted that IJI government could not endure without following its original line. "We will initiate the same movement against America as we had against the Soviet Union," he vowed and added that people used to laugh at JI's slogan of destroying USSR but the mission was accomplished "Now America will undergo the same process of disintegration," he predicted.

He said the independence of the Central Asian states was an indicator of the fact that the day was fast approaching when there would be no borders in the region from Pakistan to Mongolia. He said the Americans claimed to be powerful enough to decide the fate of the entire world but this dream would never come true. American did not want friendship between Pakistan and the rest of the Islamic forces of the region but this too woud be frustrated and there would emerge a strong Muslim power in this region, he said.

The rally also staged a mock explosion of the Islamic bomb the model of which it carried with it.

Two Killed in Indian Violation of Kashmir Shrine

BK0103164592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Islamabad, March 1 (AFP)—Pakistan slammed Sunday the alleged desecration of a Moslem shrine by security forces in Indian-held Kashmir.

Citing Indian press reports, a government statement here said armed security forces opened machinegun fire on a Moslem congregation at the Hazrat Bal shrine in Srinagar, killing two people and injuring many others Friday.

They also set fire to a library belonging to the shrine, destroying 16,000 books, the statement said.

"The Government of Pakistan once again calls upon the international community to take cognizance of the escalating repression by the Indian occupation forces in Srinagar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir," it added. [passage omitted]

Editorial Deplores Desecration

BK0203150592 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 92 p4

[Editorial: "Escalating Repression"]

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir that Indian forces have desecreted the Hazrat Bal shrine have caused deep resentment and grief throughout Pakistan. Indian newspapers which normally play down such events have carried stories of Indian armed personnel having opened machine gun fire on Muslims congregated outside and inside the precincts of the shrine in an attempt to prevent them from offering Friday prayers. Besides killing two persons (the death toll may be more) and injuring several others, the Indian forces set fire to the library established at the site.

The Dargah Hazrat Bal is held in great reverence by the Kashmiri Muslims. Some years earlier it had suffered at the hands of Indian occupation forces and now it is the second time they have rampaged it on the pretext that those gathered at the place were violating the curfew. The day happened to be a Friday and not allowing the people to fulfil their religious obligation of offering the weekly prayers is nothing but preposterous and against all norms of civilised behaviour. These days the Kashmiris under Indian yoke are observing a 'Solidarity with Pakistan' week, and this is probably what provoked the trigger-happy Indian army to fire indiscriminately at the gathering. A young boy who was hoisting a Pakistan flag

was the first casualty. Other pro-Pakistan rallies in different towns of occupied Kashmir were not only fired upon from the ground but also from a helicopter hovering overhead. To top it all, the blame for the fire to the library is being put on the freedom-fighters although no Muslim can ever think of burning a premise which houses copies of the Holy Quran and Hadith. It is reported that as many as 16,000 religious books were destroyed by the fire. It is time the international community takes cognisance of the escalating repression by the Indians in the land they have occupied against the will of the people living there and force them to stop their fascist crackdown and genocidal practices against the defenceless people of Kashmir. World conscience cannot be so dead as not to be able to see through the game India is playing to illegally hold on to the occupied areas of Kashmir.

Parties Oppose Destruction of Poppy Fields

BK0203155592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Timergara, Dir—The authorities are facing stiff resistance from the poppy-growers in Malakand division during its on-going campaign to eradicate the poppy crop grown on more than 18,000 kanals.

The toughest resistance is being offered by the poppy farmers in Dir and Buner districts and Bajawar Agency. The government is anxious to destroy the crop before the harvesting season in April.

The government has steadily enforced the ban on poppy-cultivation in the mountainous Malakand division. There has, however, been a relapse in poppy-cultivation in the area with the farmers defying the ban in big numbers. This defiance is politically-motivated in Buner and dominated by tribesmen in Dir.

The most troublesome is the Jamaat-i-Islami [JI]-dominated Dir district where government officials said poppies have been grown on 12,000 Kanals. Unofficial figures of the area under poppy were, however, much higher.

The government is especially concerned about Ushari village in Dir Tehsil and Nihag Tormang and Karo valleys in Waray Tehsil where the independent-minded Sutlankhel and Paindakhel tribes are resisting the destruction of the poppy crops.

The deputy commissioner Dir, Gulazar Ali Shah, had to face a hard time a few days ago when people in Ushari valley appealed to the villagers on loudspeakers to come armed to their poppy fields and resist destruction of their poppies. Violence was, however, tactfully averted.

The Dir administration has achieved some success in Adinzai Tehsil where the poppies have been grown in Laram, Asbanr, Khairahad and Siyahwar Ghar valleys in defiance of the ban. The authorities said poppy crop on 500 kanals out of 1,300 kanals had already been destroyed either manually or through hand spray.

The government is trying to prevail upon the farmers to voluntarily destroy their poppies. It has even secured the support of Tehrik-i-Nifaz-e-Shariat in Dir to declare poppy cultivation as un-Islamic. However, the political parties, including JI which won five out of six provincial assembly seats in Dir in the 1990 elections, are opposed to the ban on poppy cultivation until the provision of alternate sources of livelihood be determined for the farmers.

Telecommunications Agreement Signed With Iran

BK0103000192 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] In Islamabad, Pakistan and Iran today signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of telecommunication. The memorandum was agreed following talks between officials of the Pakistan Telecommuncation Corporation and Iranian Telecommunication delegation headed by Mr. Mahmud Khushravi. Both sides have agreed to improve and expand the existing telecommunication services between the two countries and open 12 additional two-way circuits by a satellite. Fourteen microwave circuits already exist between the two countries on the Quetta-Zahidan microwave route. Both sides also agreed to cooperate in the fields of research and training for maintenance of telecommunication systems.